

## 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.

**MUSIC MAKER RAG**  
 The Official Newsletter of the Music Maker Relief Foundation

Winter 2007

Vol. 13, No. 3

**PRECIOUS BRYANT**

PRECIOUS BRYANT, A TRADITIONAL BLUES PLAYER, WAS BORN JANUARY 4, 1942 IN TALBOT COUNTY GEORGIA. HER EXTENDED MUSICAL FAMILY LED HER EARLY TO PERFORM IN THE BAPTIST CHURCH AND LATER AT PARTIES AND TALENT SHOWS IN THE AREA.

I LISTENED TO JIMMY REED, MUDDY WATERS AND ALL THEM... I WOULD LISTEN TO A SONG ON THE RADIO AND WRITE THE WORDS DOWN AND I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE MUSIC 'CAUSE I COULD GET THE MUSIC.

I'VE ALWAYS BE PLAYING THE BLUES. AS LONG AS I LIVE THE BLUES TELLS THE TRUTH. SOMETIMES IT BE SAD, SOMETIMES IT BE HAPPY - IT WORKS ALL KIND OF WAYS.

.. PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER, AIN'T NOBODY SICK, AIN'T NOBODY DEAD.

PRECIOUS HAS PLAYED AT FOUR FESTIVALS IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD, WHERE HER LUSH GUITAR STYLE AND EXCELLENT VOICE HAVE WON HER REPUTATION AS A "MUSICAL TREASURE." HOWARD THE HOLLY PLAYED AROUND HOME, BUT SHE HAS ALREADY EARNED A SECURE PLACE IN AMERICAN MUSICAL HISTORY AS GEORGIA'S "QUARTER OF THE BLUES." SHE IS TRULY PRECIOUS.

Story and Art by Gary Dunbar

# M I S S I O N

## Preserving Music by Preserving Musicians

### Dear Friends,

We thank everyone that donated to our membership drive last spring. MM donors matched the \$50K challenge gift! Music Maker depends on our donors to insure the richness of our programs.

We have had a very busy summer and we have a great deal to look forward to this fall. This summer the MM Revue toured Germany and Spain introducing many new music fans to the mission of MMRF. We were playing wonderful festivals alongside acts such as The Roots, India Arie and Foreigner. Our fast moving package show featured Macavine Hayes, Eddie Tigner, Albert White, Pura Fe, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins supported by Ardie Dean, Sol and myself. Truly great fun! This revue is booked for Australia, Germany and France next year. We were thrilled to bring the MM Revue to the "Roots N Blues N Barbeque Festival" in Columbia, MO in September. There is nothing more precious and important for MM artists than to get out on stage and perform.

The Built for the Blues project is so moving for us. That a person is laying it on the line to build a house and donate all the profits from its sale is truly humbling. This generosity and spirit inspires us all to dedicate ourselves even more to our mission. There are many ways for you to participate in this project. Buy the kitchen sink or come to the Open House celebration and help us match this gift of \$80,000.

We have many events to look forward to. Board member Ryan Costello and his partner Todd Cornett booked The John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts for this year's 5th Annual Congressional Blues Festival. We are deeply honored to celebrate our nation's greatest natural resource there next spring. Ryan and I spent an incredible day in DC visiting MM supporters including VW, Fedex, Clyde's Restaurant Group, Hardy Lott, Congressman Jon Porter and were overwhelmed by their enthusiasm to support our mission.

whelmed by their enthusiasm to support our mission.

We are gearing up for our Fishin' Blues Tournament in Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica this upcoming February. Our 6th annual is guaranteed to be an incredible adventure. Join us for the best Blues and catch the Big One!

The Carolina Chocolate Drops completed an historic summer of touring, thrilling audiences throughout Canada, the US and at the Newport and Philadelphia Folk Festivals. They have done close to 200 shows this year and there is no end in sight. They will tour England, France and Germany next March. We thank the CCDs for embracing our mission and being such dynamic ambassadors for MMRF.

The CDs we are offering in our Holiday Gifts program are spectacular! "Blues, Sweet Blues" demonstrates the richness of our recording legacy. These 40 previously unreleased recordings proves that MM has issued the finest recordings of rural blues in modern times. "Christmas with Cootie" is a real treat. Cootie is joined by John Dee Holeman, Cool John Ferguson, Macavine Hayes, Whistlin' Britches and Captain Luke for a hilariously uplifting Christmas celebration. "Pura Fe, Hold the Rain" is an exquisite set of personal songs by this native chanteuse. Thank you for gifting all your friends, these packages arrive in festive packaging with your personal note.

I leave this letter with the announcement that Music Maker just bought a building in historic Hillsborough, NC. Congressman David Price made this possible through an appropriation grant from the federal government. We thank board member Ryan Costello for planting the seed at our first Congressional Blues Festival. This space will help us grow our organization and give us a stronger presence in



Ryan Costello, Congressman Jon Porter and Matt Leffingwell in DC ©Duffy  
our community. The building needs some work with plumbing, lights, floors and furniture; if anyone wishes to help please get in touch.

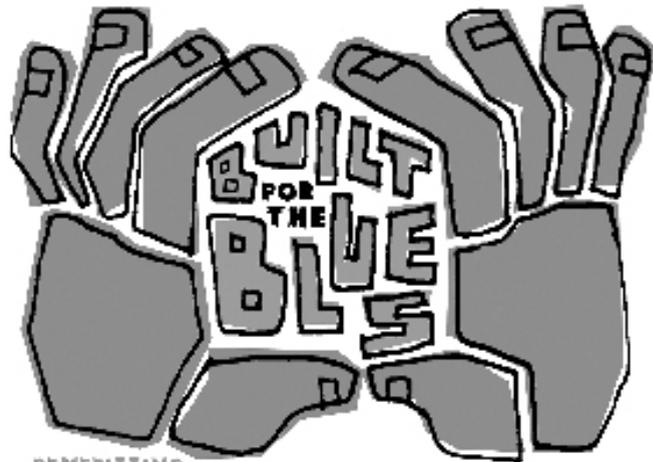
Thank you to everyone and please make a contribution today.

With warm regards,

Timothy & Denise Duffy

## Home sale will support trailblazing musicians

By Layla Farmer  
Thursday, September 13 2007  
From The Winston Salem Chronicle



BENEFITTING  
MUSIC MAKER RELIEF FOUNDATION

The groundbreaking of the Music Maker Relief Foundation's (MMRF) latest fundraising project was unlike any other. Musicians gathered in a semicircle on the pavement just outside of the new lot, guitars slung over their shoulders. They smiled at each other through the sunglasses that shielded their eyes from the late morning sun and they sang. They sang of the things they had known and seen and felt, tapping their feet in the traditional Piedmont Blues that flowed from their instruments.

The groundbreaking ceremony marked the start of an exciting new project for Durham-based Music Maker, born of a generous gift from an anonymous citizen who believes in its mission.

"A builder in Winston, who builds about 30 homes a year ... had been wanting to do something philanthropic for the past few years, but hadn't really found a charity that he fit with," explained Denise Duffy, cofounder of the organization. "He contacted us with the idea of building a home on spec and donating the profits." The home will be nestled in Clemmons, not far from Winston Salem, where Music Maker was founded. The gift will garner an estimated \$85,000, if not more, for the organization, Duffy says.

The money will support the many programs funded by Music Maker, which serves musicians age 55 and above who are rooted in the southern tradition and have an annual income of less than \$18,000.

"They're good people and I love the blues. I noticed they were just carrying it on, keeping the blues going on," said Music Maker Musician Ron Hunter. "That's why I'm very proud to be involved, because I love playing the blues."

The organization meets the musicians' needs in every way it can, from paying for groceries or medical bills to organizing tours and producing CDs, in an effort to preserve the musical traditions that are in danger of dying out, Duffy says.

"Our culture is what we leave behind to the world," she declared. "I think while we have a cultural imperative to preserve as much of this as possible while we can." Tim Duffy founded the MMRF in 1994, after obtaining a degree in folklore and meeting one prolific starving artist, who introduced him to a whole subculture of men and women versed in the tradition of Piedmont Blues.

"I was documenting an old blues man named Guitar Slim in Greensboro," he explained. "He died in '90; he told me to find a guy in Winston called Guitar Gabriel." After searching for some time, Duffy, then a substitute teacher, stumbled across a student who led him to the legend.

"I walked in his door, he played me a guitar, and it was stunning, the guy was absolutely a terrific guitar player, (in) a league that people had thought didn't exist," he said. "He taught me how to play guitar and I learned about him; he had the hit records in the 70s but had just quit and was running around Winston."



James "Guitar Slim" Stephens, Greensboro, NC

©Küstner

Gabriel introduced Duffy to other talented musicians who, like him, struggled to meet their daily needs. The organization now supports an average of 70 musicians at a time. They live all over the country, but have one thing in common: southern music.

"Popular music is all rooted in the blues and jazz and the musical traditions that came from the south," Duffy stated. "It was a shame that the granddaughters and the grandsons of the pioneers that invented this music and are still carrying it on are living in utter obscurity and poverty."

Luke Mayer, dubbed "Captain Luke" because of the captain's hat he dons, was among the first of Music Makers' musicians. Through the organization, Mayer has traveled the world, visiting places as far away as Switzerland, Argentina, Australia and France. It was a dream come true for Mayer, who was already elderly at that time.

"I never thought; I never had the least idea that this would happen to me," he said, shaking his head in wonderment. Music Maker has been a godsend, Mayer added, Tim Duffy in particular.

"He's so dag-gum nice to us; I mean he's the sweetest guy I've met in my life. He treats us like we some kin to him, really," he remarked. "Everything we need, he gets it for us."

Visit our website [musicmaker.org](http://musicmaker.org) to learn more about how you can help.

**BUILT FOR THE BLUES**  
Open House, Sponsor Showcase, and Wine Tasting  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**Nov 17th and 18th, 1-5pm**  
On the site of the finished home at 295 Windsong Drive,  
Clemmons, NC 27012

Live performances by  
**The Ron Hunter Band, John Dee Holeman, Boo Hanks, Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes, and more...**

[musicmaker.org](http://musicmaker.org) for more info

Gabriel's talent took the two men from local drink houses all the way to Carnegie Hall, performing the blues Gabriel was known for. It even caught the attention of Eric Clapton, Duffy says, but there was trouble in paradise.

"The problem is when I went to get him for gigs, he'd be more worried about his wife's prescription medicine or how he was going to pay the power bill," he remarked. "I realized quickly that there is no record deal for these guys. Going on the road - he was very sick at that point - was not an option, so we started the Music Maker Relief Foundation to help guys like Gabe."

# Sustenance

## THE NEED:

A majority of the artists we serve are over 65 years old and have an annual income of \$8,000 a year. Providing basic life needs such as housing, utilities, medical, transportation and food within this budget is difficult for them. When a crisis arises such as a natural disaster or medical problems, times get very difficult. Under these conditions it is hard to concentrate on their music.

## THE SOLUTION:

**Musician Sustenance Program - grants to meet basic life needs and emergency relief.**



Precious Bryant, Weaverville Hall, GA

©Duffy

### **"If you don't love me, would you fool me good?" -Precious Bryant**

Precious Bryant has a sparkle of light that shines deep into the heavens when she sings and plays her guitar. She was born into a family of traditional musicians in a close-knit community in rural Talbot County, Georgia in which there were many blues players and gospel singers. We met Precious in 1995 and have remained good friends ever

since. Precious has never enjoyed traveling far from home and as of late has health issues that prevent her from doing so. For years we have been able to help her with grants to pay a power bill, keep her telephone on and in general help with bills that she just cannot cover on her very limited income. In fact, at the time of this writing we just discovered her phone is disconnected and are writing her a post card asking if we can help get it back on.

**Ron Hunter** is a wonderful blues guitarist and singer from Winston-Salem, NC. After decades of performance he has forged his own unique voice and sound. He was recently featured in Living Blues Magazine, and his latest CD was heralded around the world. Things were going well. Ron and his band performed at our Congressional Blues Festival where Allman Brothers/ Eric Clapton's guitarist Derek Trucks and many others became fans.

Then in June, Ron suffered a stroke. Fortunately, he is making a strong recovery and has returned to occasional performing. A proud, hard-working man, Ron never dreamed of asking for anything as he has always "taken care of his own." But being not yet strong enough to return to his day job coupled with the reality of mounting medical bills left Ron struggling with the decisions of whether to pay for food, bills or the medicine that will keep him well.

At times like these, MMRF can provide emergency grants and services to assist Ron with the immediate financial crisis so he can focus on his recovery. Fortunately Ron is doing well and is back on the job and we are making a plan to develop his musical career. When artists like Ron get the support they need, audiences around the world can celebrate American music and our culture will be preserved for future generations.



Ron Hunter, Durham, NC

©Duffy

## Ask Amy

Do you have a question for Music Maker? Ask Amy at amy@music-maker.org.



**What is Adolphus Bell doing driving around town with food in his van? -John Price, Kittery, Maine**

That's a great question, John. Many people in Birmingham Alabama may have seen Adolphus' van around town. Painted on the side, "World's Greatest One Man Band", he will often times deliver food to people in need. "I just want to give back, I'm grateful for where I am and what I have accomplished. If I can help someone out, I will." Adolphus delivers his homemade food himself to the homeless. He enjoys cooking for people every chance he can get. "I like to keep people eating, to keep them happy!"

**Where did the "Carolina Chocolate Drops" get their name? -Chris Reid, Durham, NC**

Rhiannon Giddens, Dom Flemons and Justin Robinson met at the "Black Banjo Gathering" held in the mountains of North Carolina, and wanting to take part in the upcoming Mount Airy Fiddler's Convention, they decided to come up with a name for their group so they could compete. Sharing a love of traditional music and education of the history of this music, the name they picked comes from the 1920s black string band the "Tennessee Chocolate Drops." This group featured fiddler Howard Armstrong, and the Carolina Chocolate Drops name pays homage to his contribution to black string music, and their love of Piedmont music.

# Cultural Access

## THE NEED:

Artists need to be discovered and heard, music fans need the opportunity to enjoy their talents and unique artistic statements.

## THE SOLUTION:

The Cultural Access program supports the preservation and proliferation of American musical traditions.



We want to let the world know of the incredible music made by the artists we serve. By presenting their music with beautiful packaging and audiophile quality recording and mastering we hope this music we love and cherish will be listened and enjoyed by music fans the world over.

**Blues, Sweet Blues** celebrates the work of 40 men and women from Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Texas, South &

North Carolina. These recordings were made between 1994 and 2006; all but a very few are released here for the first time. These recordings lay a foundation for these modern masters to be appreciated by a whole new generation of music fans.



Adolphus Bell, Warehouse Blues, Durham, NC

©Duffy

**Get ready to Rock the House and the Senate...**

**5TH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BLUES FESTIVAL**  
 April 22 & 23  
**South Plaza at The Kennedy Center,**  
 Washington D.C.  
 Artists to be announced

# Professional Development

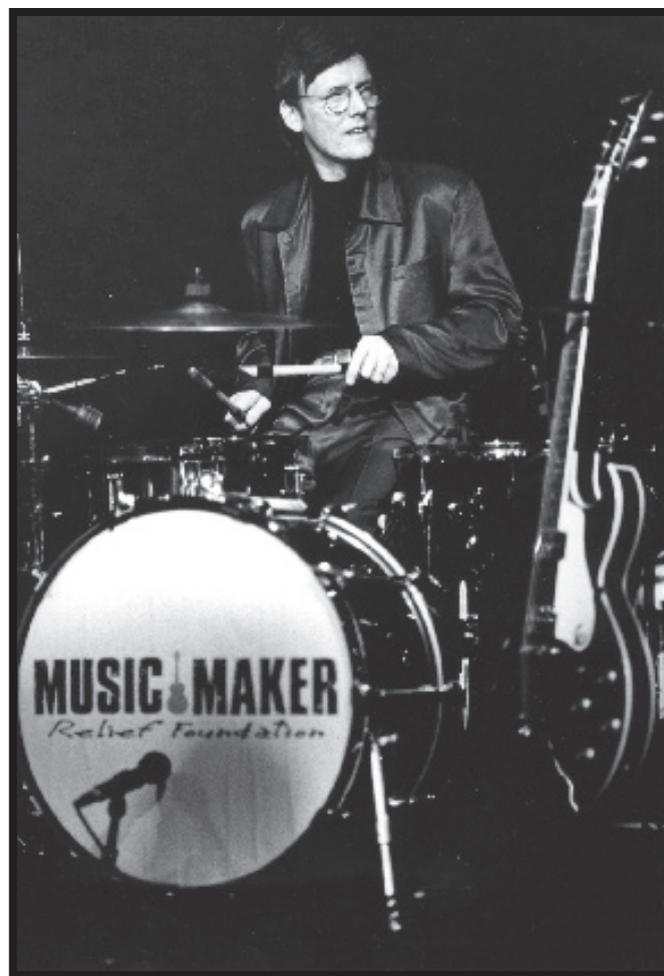
## THE NEED:

Oftentimes, we meet artists and they have inadequate or no musical instruments, no recordings of their music and need help developing their music.

## THE SOLUTION:

Musical Development - grants and services for recipient artist professional development and career advancement.

Drummer extraordinaire **Ardie Dean** has supported our mission since he joined Guitar Gabriel's band, "The Brothers in the Kitchen" in 1991. He has been our musical director for literally every Music Maker Revue show throughout the world since then and feels his work with MMRF is his vocation. In the past few years Ardie has been invaluable to developing artists, a job that is referred to in the music business as A&R (artist and repertoire). This entails helping artists select material, work on arrangements and develop their act. Artists such as Alabama Slim and Albert White were virtually unknown and after working with Ardie are now performing throughout the world. He is truly one of the greatest unsung heroes of Music Maker history as he volunteers his time for these musicians. You can hear his work as a producer on albums by artists Sweet Betty, Essie Mae Brooks, Lee Gates, Sonny Boy King, Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Alabama Slim and Albert White.



Ardie Dean, Atlanta, GA

© Duffy



Rhiannon Giddens, Dom Flemons, Joe Thompson and Justin Robinson

©Lissa Gotwals

## Greensboro News & Records On The Wall

At Joe Thompson's last birthday party (his 88th), the Mebane man was so busy playing his fiddle that he almost forgot to eat a piece of his cake. That devotion to old-time music was honored Tuesday in a Capitol Hill ceremony where Thompson received a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship. It is the nation's highest honor for folk artists.

Thompson was one of 12 receiving the award, which recognizes lifetime achievement. Other honorees included a klezmer musician from Pennsylvania, a New England stone carver and a New Mexican weaver. Appalachian banjo player Mary Jane Queen of Cullowhee was honored posthumously. The N.C. General Assembly recognized Thompson and his late cousin, banjo player Odell Thompson, in July.

Once it was as common for African Americans as for whites to play string-band music. Thompson learned to play from his daddy, who learned the same way. But while most blacks moved away from the music, Thompson kept it up — to the delight of more than just Mebanites. On his fiddle case he displays bumper stickers from his concert travels, which have taken him to Carnegie Hall and to Australia.

Thompson passes on the tradition through mentoring. Rhiannon Giddens, who played in the Triad Stage production of "Beautiful Star," cites Thompson as her "biggest influence." Giddens and others in the African American string band Carolina Chocolate Drops have spent hours learning from Thompson; they will perform with him Thursday in a Washington, D.C.-area concert honoring the winners.

Thompson's next honor? It would be great to see him as the grand marshal of Mebane's Christmas parade.



## New CD Reviews: Fricke's Picks

by David Fricke, from Rolling Stone, Modern Jug-Band Music

**Carolina Chocolate Drops** are three young black musicians revisiting, with a joyful vengeance, black strong-band and jug-band music of the Twenties and Thirties - the dirt-floor dance electricity of Mississippi Sheiks and Cannon's Jug Stompers. "Dona Got a Ramblin' Mind" (Music Maker) is dazzling in its velocity and virtuosity, while the capella lament "Another Man Done Gone" and waltz "Short Life of Trouble" ensure that you don't miss the blues that drove those pioneers to make such defiantly ecstatic music.

## 91 Bluebird Wanderlodge FOR SALE

A generous donor has donated a bus to Music Maker!

Great Deal, Priced to Move \$89,500

Fully loaded luxury Bluebird Wanderlodge!  
 Donated to MMRF, Priced to Move!  
 Low Mileage, Everything Like New!  
 Call 919-643-2456 for Details.



## reserve your spot!

FEBRUARY 10TH-16TH, 2008, PLAYA ZANCUDO, COSTA RICA

For 5 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 to raise awareness for funds for our programs to aid Southern musicians. Reserve your spot early, as we are limited to 30 fishermen. Participants will stay at world renown The Zancudo Lodge, where over 60 I.G.F.A records have been set. For more information call Denise or Tim Duffy at 919-643-2456 anytime or email denise@musicmaker.org. The entire fee of \$5,975 (\$2,250 tax deductible) per fishermen.

February 10th, 2008 - Travel to Zancudo  
 11th - Fishin', 12th - Fishin', 13th - Fishin' and Awards dinner, 14th - Concert (optional touring, beach party or more Fishin'), 15th - Travel to San José,  
 16th - Depart for home  
 \*additional fees may apply for connecting flights or flights originating in other US cities.  
 \*\*rates based on double occupancy, single rooms may be reserved if available at additional cost.

## JOIN THE RAFFLE

Enter the exclusive raffle and be one of 130 Music Maker supporters to win 2 slots in this years fishin' tournament (an \$11,000 value). This is six days of fun in the costa Rican 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 just \$100, order by mail, online at musicmaker.org or by phone 919-643-2456.



Don Delavergne

©Delavergne

fishinblues.com • fishin@musicmaker.org • 919-643-2456

# HOLIDAY GIVING THROUGH MUSIC MAKER

Brighten this Holiday Season for your family, friends and colleagues with a gift from Music Maker. Each gift festively packaged and delivered with your personal message. Give the gift that gives back to our American musical heritage and keep our roots music alive!

## BLUES, SWEET BLUES

40 songs by the greatest unheralded blues artists of modern times. These recordings were made between '94 & '06 all but a very few are released here for the first time.



## Christmas with Cootie

"Christmas with Cootie" will fill your home with a sweet joyous spirit. Cootie is joined by John Dee Holeman, Cool John Ferguson, Macavine Hayes, Whistlin' Britches and Captain Luke in a hilariously uplifting musical Christmas celebration.



## MUSIC MAKERS: PORTRAITS AND SONGS FROM THE ROOTS OF AMERICA BOOK & CD

The story of the Music Maker Relief Foundation comes to life in this beautiful collection of photographs and writings. The 69 musicians profiled in this book take you on a soulful ride you'll never forget. Includes a 23-track CD and forward by B.B. King. 208 pages, 11" by 8", 160 b&w photographs, hard cover.



## GIVIN' IT BACK RECORD CLUB

Join the Givin' it Back Record Club and you will receive a new Music Maker CD every three months for one year. The CDs are mailed out in December, March, June and September. Most recipient artists have spent a lifetime performing their music but have never recorded until now. Your membership helps issue CDs for recipient artists.

## GIFT OPTIONS

1. \$25 - Blues, Sweet Blues double CD or Christmas with Cootie CD, a donation in the recipient's name and a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.
2. \$45 - Blues, Sweet Blues double CD and Christmas with Cootie CD, a donation in the recipient's name and a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.
3. \$75 - Blues, Sweet Blues double CD and Christmas with Cootie CD, Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America hardcover book and CD, a donation in the recipient's name and a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.
4. \$135 - Blues, Sweet Blues double CD and Christmas with Cootie CD, Givin' Back Record Club one-year membership, a donation in the recipient's name and a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.

## DECEMBER PICK

"Fabulous... astonishing... playing soaring, soaring lap style bottleneck guitar, fuscara's tribe descendant Pura Fe blends world beat rhythms with Southern blues and her own powerful vocals."

Toot Selvin,  
San Francisco Chronicle



ORDER FORM

QTY		
	Blues Sweet Blues CD	\$25
	Christmas with Cootie	\$25
	Blues Sweet Blues and Christmas with Cootie	\$45
	Blues Sweet Blues and Christmas with Cootie, Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America hardcover book and CD	\$75
	Blues Sweet Blues and Christmas with Cootie, Givin' Back Record Club one-year membership	\$135
	Shipping (domestic \$5, int'l \$15)	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	

Each gift includes a donation in the recipient's name and a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.

Please copy this gift form to send additional gifts.

Ship to:  Me  Gift Recipient (fill out below)  
 Mail Rag Subscription to below:

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### PAYMENT

Mail: Music Maker, P.O. Box 72225, Durham, NC 27722  
 Phone: 919-573-2156 or Fax: 919-643-2597 Web: www.musicmaker.org

Check enclosed  
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 CV2 Code (last 3 digits on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

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### TOTAL

Please consider adding a tax deductible donation to help keep the music alive.

Please add totals from other orders.

Gift and Shipping Total: \$

(\$5 per U.S. Order + \$ 5.00 International)

Donation: \$

Final Total: \$

**MUSIC MAKER**  
 Relief Foundation

# Music Maker Notes

Many thanks to **The Blues Foundation** who donated \$2,000 to MMRF at the Roots N Blues N BBQ festival in Columbia MO.

Music Maker recently received a grant from the **Orange County Arts Commission** for equipment for our **Music Development grant**. We also received a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council to help with a release for a new Captain Luke CD.

Many thanks to the **Durham Parks and Recreation** for sponsoring another successful season of the Warehouse Blues Series in downtown Durham! The series was recently awarded the Arts and Humanities Award at the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association Banquet.

Big thanks to the **BMI** Foundation for contributing to MMRF.

We are thrilled that **Sara Waters** joined our team in March of 2007 as Development Assistant. Her enthusiasm and love of music inspires our office. She has done excellent public relations work for our Built for the Blues campaign. Also many thanks to all the



Sara Waters, hard at work at MMRF

©Weaver



Lauren Hart

©Duffy

hardwork of volunteers **Melissa Marion, Patrick Nerz, Linda Thurber** and **Anne Pitts**.

We thank **David Menconi** at the Raleigh News and Observer for continually championing MMRF in our states' largest paper.

**Little Pink Anderson** is still in South Dakota. David Gilmour of the super group Pink Floyd has been in touch with Pink about commemorating his father. They named their group after his bluesman



Little Freddie King and his band in front of his new home in the New Orleans Musicians' Village

father Pink Anderson and blues artist Floyd Council.

**Etta Baker, John Dee Holeman** and **Joe Thompson** were recently honored at the Durham Blues Festival in Durham, NC.

**Adolphus Bell** is on the move! This year he has toured Argentina, France, Germany, North Carolina, Missouri and will soon travel from Istanbul to Moscow on a four week tour.

**Skeeter Brandon** plays shows around Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill in North Carolina. Check his website [skeeterbrandon.com](http://skeeterbrandon.com) for his complete touring schedule.

If you want to hear great authentic gospel then you should check out **Essie Mae Brooks!** She is from Perry, Georgia; Essie keeps gospel music alive with her deeply spiritual songs.

The **Carolina Chocolate Drops** have been touring hard. Their schedule is full and their show is incredible, check the events link at [musicmaker.org](http://musicmaker.org) to see if they will be stopping by your community soon.

**Pura Fé** continues to tour Europe and is becoming a huge sensation in France. "Hold the Rain" is her newest CD will be our December Record Club selection.

**Cool John Ferguson** is doing well in Beaufort, SC and has been performing quite often in Durham, NC.

**Benton Flippen** recently played at the Shakori Grassroots Festival and the North Carolina Museum of History.

**Lee Gates** recently received the Artist Most Deserving of Attention in the recent Living Blues Awards.

**Little Freddie King** has returned to his beloved New Orleans! He is now a resident at the Musicians Village. Many thanks to Wacko Wade for his great support and care of his band leader.

Many thanks a generous Music Maker supporter for donating a Ford Taurus.

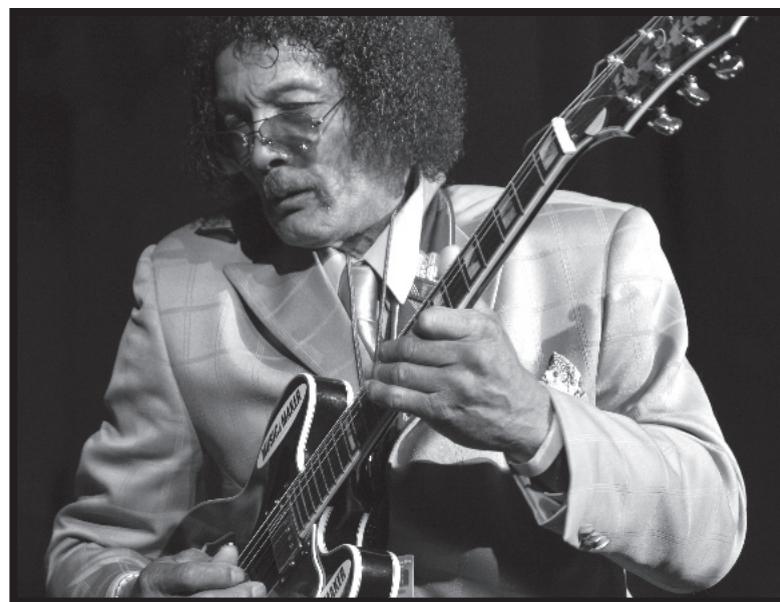
Many thanks **HendersonBromsteadArt** for their work on "Blues, Sweet Blues" and **Mark Beeson** for his design for "Christmas with Cootie." Both of these design firms have been donating to MMRF for years and we thank them for their support and for making MMRF look so good.

**Slewfoot & Cary B.** have been playing with **Alabama Slim** in venues around New Orleans. See our events page for a complete listing.

**Christmas with Cootie** is our new Christmas release and a must have for your personal collections, as well as a festive gift for friends and family this holiday season.

**Beverly "Guitar" Watkins** is back in business. She has a new release out on Dixie Frog Records in France. Fully recovered from a heart attack and cancer; it is truly amazing to witness Beverly just slaying the crowds. She will be touring France next March, June and July.

**Whistlin' Britches** is doing great...but he'd really appreciate



Lee Gates, Congressional Blues Festival 2006, Washington DC ©Miranda

some mail. Recovering from his leg amputation, he has received a prosthetic leg and is able to walk with the use of a walker. He was able to make it out to the Warehouse Blues series and had a great time! Send him a card if you get a chance: Haskell Thompson, Reynolds House, 2900 Reynolds Park Road, Winston Salem, NC 27107.

Music Maker has a dynamic intern program. **Lauren Hart** of Hampshire College spent the summer archiving over 200 hours of field recordings. Her work included transferring master tapes into WAVE files to be stored on a hard drive, cataloging and making notes on all recordings.

**Music Maker has given many grants** to our artists since the last newsletter. Here are just some of them. Ron Hunter got a new guitar, Boo Hanks was able to get some new musical supplies. We granted Little Pink Anderson, Adolphus Bell, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Eddie Tigner, Pink Anderson, Slewfoot & Carrie B., Macavine Hayes, Albert White, Pura Fe and John Dee Holeman CDs to sell at their shows. We assisted Skeeter Brandon with his monthly rent, bought Essie Mae Brooks a new air conditioner, paid for a lighting bill for Precious Bryant, bought a new radiator for George Higgs' tractor, helped Algia Mae Hinton with some bills and many of our artists also received their monthly "feed an artist" grants to help with groceries.

We thank **Timothy Nichols Design, The Millennium Center, HendersonBromstead-Art, Sherwin Williams, Foothills Brewery, K & W Plumbing, Tanglewood Cabinets, Rocha Framing Pierera Heating and Air and S & W Lighting** for sponsoring the **Built for the Blues** project.

We wish to thank **Taj Mahal, Bill Puckett** and **Blane Wright** for their incredible service as Music Maker board members.

Mudcat celebrated Sweet Petunia Day, October 17; this was a day in celebration for Ms. **Cora Mae Buckner**.

Many thanks to Durham based **Locopops** who celebrated their second anniversary with a fundraiser for Music Maker!



Captain Luke and his car donated to MMRF

all CDs \$12 • shipping is \$5 per address / \$15 for international • donations@musicmaker.org • 919-643-2456



Little Pink Anderson • Carolina Bluesman • Masterful country blues guitar player and soulful vocals.

Etta Baker • Railroad Bill • A set of timeless beauty!

Etta Baker with Taj Mahal • This set includes duets with Taj Mahal plus all of her classic 1956 recordings.

Etta Baker & Cora Phillips • Carolina Breakdown • Recorded in late 80s when Etta was in her prime.

Adolphus Bell • One Man Band House • Rockin' Foot Stompin' authentic Alabama blues!

Sweet Betty • Live and Let Live. • Sweet Betty is the finest blues singer in Atlanta.

Essie Mae Brooks • Rain in Your Life • Cool John accompanies her with light and masterful improvisations on guitar and piano.

Cora Mae Bryant • Born with the Blues • the daughter of Georgia guitar legend Curley Weaver.

Cora Mae Bryant • Born in Newton County • A stunning record featuring exceptional guitar playing.

Precious Bryant • My Name is Precious • 26 songs showcasing Precious' unique voice and charming style.

**James Davis: Georgia Drumbeat Drum Beat! Hypnotic electric guitar and drums from mid Georgia..**

**Carolina Chocolate Drops • Dona Got a Ramblin' • Mind 14 classic old-time tunes by this trail-blazing band!**

**Carolina Chocolate Drops present: Sankofa Strings: Colored Aristocracy Blues, Stringband and Jazz featuring the incredible percussion and banjo of Sule Greg Wilson with CCD members Rhianon Giddens, Justin Robinson and Dom Flemons.**

Mr. Frank Edwards • Chicken Raid • A nine decade career; this was his last recording session the day of his death.

Pura Fé • Follow Your Hearts Desire • Native chanteuse Pura Fé has the voice of an angel.

Cool John Ferguson Here One of the world's finest guitarists.

Cool John Ferguson • Cool Yule • you will play this disc all year long!

Cool John Ferguson • Guitar Heaven • Taj Mahal tells, "He's up there with Hendrix, Wes Montgomery, Django Reinhart, people like that!"

**Dom Flemons: Dance Tunes, Ballads and Blues: Solo recording by Carolina Chocolate Drops multi instrumentalist.**

**Benton Flippen: Fiddler's Dream 24 tracks of Mt. Airy, North Carolina style fiddle tunes.**

Preston Fulp • Sawmill Worker • Born in 1915, Preston weaves stories of his life through both secular and sacred songs.

Lee Gates and the Alabama Cotton Kings • One must rejoice in the glorious tone of Lee's guitar.

Lee Gates • Black Lucy's Deuce • The kind of party-mad juker who'd shoot or stab you - and then go home with your woman - as readily as he'd smile in your face.

Guitar Gabriel • Volume One • Venturing well beyond drink houses into his own private Birdland, an improvisational crossroads where the starkly pre-modern meets the startlingly postmodern.

Guitar Gabriel • Deep in the South • Guitar Gabriel boogies and cries heart-felt country blues in this set.

Guitar Gabriel • Toot Blues • This CD is not for the faint of heart.

Clyde Langford • High Steppin' Momma • Primitive East Texas Blues!

Capt. Luke & Cool John • Outsider Lounge Music • Deep rich baritone, singing stellar sentimental blues.

Carl Rutherford • Turn Off the Fear • Showcase his unique blend of Buck Owens-styled twang, old time gospel numbers and harrowing mining songs.

Larry Shores • Songs from T-Town • Seasoned farm-hand by 14, he plays folk music from the Northwest.

Slewfoot and the Angels • Grasshopper Pie • Diverse and original, New Orleans blues and even Hawaiian slack-key brings a new flavor Music Maker.

Slewfoot and Cary B. • Rainin' in New Orleans • Straight from the streets of New Orleans.



**Slewfoot & Cary B. featuring Andrew Ross • Louisiana Time • New Release from New Orleans' Songsters.**

Alabama Slim & Little Freddie King • The Mighty Flood • Haunting tale of Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath.

Sol • volume blue • Ancient truths of the blues arrive in some new place, through some new voice.

Cootie Stark • Sugar Man • Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz • Evidence that Stark was an idiosyncratic, tremendously talented musician.

Cootie Stark • Raw Sugar • Taj Mahal joins Cootie on hambone, piano, bass, harp, banjo and guitar.

Eddie Tigner • Route 66 • Exuberantly set of timeless standards.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins • Back in Business • This is a highly charged record by this powerful performer.

The Feelings of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins • Guitar woman player of her generation whose searing, ballistic attacks on the guitar are legendary.

Lightnin' Wells • Ragged but Right • Performing his Piedmont-tinged variety of American roots music for 35 years.

A Living Past • A classic recording and superb sampler of traditional blues scene in North Carolina.

Blues Came to Georgia • 15 songs illustrating the continuing vitality of grassroots blues in Georgia.

Came So Far • 18 selections by 12 astonishing blues and gospel artists.

Expressin' the Blues • 21 songs by 21 of the most talented and unsung heroes of the blues.

Music Maker with Taj Mahal • Blues legend Taj Mahal backs up MM artists on upright bass, hambone, banjo, piano and guitar.

Music Maker Treasure Box • This incredible 3 CD compilation set celebrates 38 artists and 53 tracks! Also comes with 36-page booklet. **THIS BOX SET IS \$30**

Sisters of the South • Gospel and country blues in the Piedmont style, to modern blues.

Songs from the Roots of America II • A companion to the book "Music Makers: Portraits & Songs from the Roots of America" this CD presents 21 songs by 21 artists, previously unreleased recordings.

Drink House to Church House • DVD/CD set • Volume 1 explores the lives and music of Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes, Whistlin' Britches, Little Freddie King, Alabama Slim, John Dee Holeman, Bishop Dready Manning and Family. • Volume 2 introduces you to the music and stories of Cool John Ferguson, Adolphus Bell, Drink Small & Pura Fé. Start your collection now, we plan on releasing a 4 volume set. **Get both for \$45, or just one for \$25**

## GIVIN' IT BACK RECORD CLUB

**December Selection:**  
*Pura Fé: Hold the Rain*

"The voice of an angel." - Robbie Robertson

"With her voice soaring, footstomping, this beautiful songbird transcends time and brings the message of our Ancestors who have sewn this beautiful seed, that makes powerful music." - Taj Mahal

Join our MM Record Club. Support MM artists.  
\$100 for four releases a year.

**100% Guaranteed!!!**

## BOOK & CD

The story of the Music Maker comes to life in Music Makers: Songs from the Roots of America. With a forward written by B.B. King, this beautiful collection of photographs and writings showcases 70 musicians and includes a 23-track CD. 208 pages, 11" x 8", 160 b&w photographs, hardcover. To learn more about the musicians featured in the book purchase our compilation "Songs from the Roots of America, Volume 2"

## THE WHOLE NINE YARDS

Want it all? You can have all our CDs, DVDs and book for \$900.

## FISHIN' BLUES MUSIC MAKER RAFFLE

### 1 IN 130 TO WIN 2 TICKETS

Enter this exclusive raffle as one of 130 Music Maker supporters to win 2 slots in this year's fishin' tournament (a \$11,000 value). This is six days of fun in the Costa Rican 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.

Included in the winning package are your airfares from Atlanta or Miami (additional fees may apply for other US cities), transfers, fishing, accommodations (based on double occupancy) meals, and drinks. For more information call Denise at 919-643-2456 or fishin@musicmaker.org. This trip is the ultimate cure for the wintertime blues and helps keep the bluest of the blues alive!

February 10th, 2008 - Travel to Zancudo - 11th - Fishin' - 12th - Fishin' - 13th - Fishin' and Awards dinner - 14th - Concert (optional touring, beach party or more Fishin') - 15th - Travel to San José - 16th - Depart for home

Macavine Hayes • Drinkhouse • A powerful, raw release after 50 years of playing the blues.

Big Boy Henry • Beaufort Blues • He is one of the sweetest, most gentle men ever to sing the blues.

George Higgs • Rainy Day • An amazing harp & guitar player; wonderful singer!

George Higgs • Tarboro Blues • Voted the best blues album of 2001 by Living Blues.

Algia Mae Hinton • Honey Babe • Algia Mae Hinton is someone not to be missed!" -Taj Mahal

John Dee Holman • Bull Durham Blues • He performs in the vein of Lightnin' Hopkins and Blind Boy Fuller.

**John Dee Holeman with the Waifs Band: With soaring vocals of sisters Donna and Vikki and guitarist Josh along with rhythm section Ben Franz and Dave Macdonald, accompanied by blues great John Dee Holeman.**

Bishop Dready Manning • Gospel Train • Bluesman turned to Gospel.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain • This Stuff Just Kills Me • No one plays a harp or sings the blues quite like this.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain • Unplugged • The greatest post war harp player alive today!

Jerry "Boogie" McCain • My Name is Boogie • The last true master of the amplified blues harp!

Dave McGrew • Fruit Tramp Ballads of the Great Northwest • A beautiful yet uneasy folk album.

Mudcat • I'll Be Young Once Too • A tremendous slide guitarist!

Mudcat • Kickin' Chicken • Guaranteed to make you want to get up and dance!

Mudcat • The Mess is On • Featuring trombone master, Little Joe!

Neal Pattman • Prison Blues • Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz Neals Deep Georgia blues harp.

Music Maker Treasure Box • This incredible 3 CD compilation set celebrates 38 artists and 53 tracks! Also comes with 36-page booklet. **THIS BOX SET IS \$30**

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# 70 YEARS OF THE BLUES AND THE MAN BACK DOOR MAN IS FINALLY A HERO

Howlin' Wolf never saw this coming. We're building a house in Clemmons, NC to help Blues pioneers in need. A top local builder is generously donating the plans and labor. We need you to help with the materials. When you visit [www.musicmaker.org](http://www.musicmaker.org), you can either make a donation or purchase items for the house. From the back door to the kitchen sink, you'll see what's been purchased and what we still need. When the home is completed and sold to the highest bidder, all profits from the sale will go to the Music Maker Relief Foundation.

To become a back door man, or a crown molding woman, please visit us online. Because The forgotten heroes of the blues shouldn't be.



Music Maker helps the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern music gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. We present these musical traditions to the world so American culture will flourish and be preserved for future generations. Our criterion for recipients is they be rooted in a Southern musical tradition, be 66 years or older and have an annual income less than \$18,000. We are a tax exempt, public charity under IRS code 501(c)(3) so your donation is fully tax deductible. [www.musicmaker.org](http://www.musicmaker.org)

**MUSIC MAKER**  
Relief Foundation

# BUILT for the BLUES

A music loving homebuilder has embraced our mission. He is using his skills, resources and heart to build a home in Winston-Salem, NC. All profits of its sale will be donated to the Music Maker Relief Foundation.

Work has begun! The lot is purchased; house plan completed. We will break ground in early September and the home will be completed the first week of November. If we all put something good into it, Music Maker will get something good out of it!

Get involved! To help with this cause we are asking you to please purchase things needed to build this home such as the kitchen sink, a driveway, a window or the lot. Our goal is to decrease the cost of the home, so more of the sales proceeds go to our mission. We thank you for your involvement. Keep on loving the Music Makers!

**\$25 Helping Hands**

**\$50 Journeyman**

**\$100 Blues Builders**

**\$250 Community Designer**

**\$500 Artistic Engineer**

**\$1,000 Foundation Club**

**\$5,000 Cultural Architects**

**\$10,000 Founder's Society**

## Donation Form

**100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!**

Please return this form with your payment in inclosed Business Reply Envelope or stamped envelope to Music Maker, PO Box 72222, Durham NC 27722

### Built for the Blues:

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Helping Hands
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Journeyman
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Blues Builders
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Community Designer
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Artistic Engineer
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Foundation Club
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000 Cultural Architects
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000 Founder's Society

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Include the quantity and name of CD you'd like to purchase:

Item	Quantity	Price

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**Will your employer match your gift?**  
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