

In Memory of Cootie Stark

1926 - 2005

I know he was born Johnny Miller - but to me and thousands of music lovers around the world this great talent will be remembered as Cootie Stark, the King of the Piedmont Blues.

Cootie was born 1926 in Abbeville, SC. As a child he couldn't see well enough to spend much time in school - so instead he spent his days with his guitar and began to sing. He learned much from the music of his Uncle Chump, Baby Tate and other musicians in his community.

We met Cootie in 1995. Tim had just started Music Maker and we had a theory: if you take a great musician who has fallen on hard times and get them a proper instrument and a respectable stage they will rise to the occasion.

And rise Cootie did - he took our mission to heart and worked hard, playing any sort of gig we could book, practicing guitar and rekindling old songs to broaden his repertoire.

In 1997, at the age of 71 he launched a new career for himself when he opened for Aretha Franklin at the Newport Rhythm & Blues Festival. And as the years went by we just marveled at how he got better and better. Cootie proved our theory true.

Although blind since a young man, Cootie never let his disability limit his experience of the world and he traveled far and wide. He loved nothing more than to go to new lands and share his special gift of music - New York, LA, Cleveland, San Francisco, Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Austin, Vegas - The Blues was on the move with Cootie.

He was absolutely intrepid and thought nothing of traveling alone to a city he had never been before- Planes, trains, cars, buses, boats - and he hated boats - he was already ready to go. What inspired us most is that he never complained. The strange food, hotels, the long, late hours - he embraced it all and kept his companions laughing all the while.

He toured with Taj Mahal, played the Lincoln Center, the Chicago Blues Festival and dozens of other festivals and clubs; this April he was scheduled to perform at the finest festival in the land, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage



Neal Pattman, Cootie Stark and John Dee Holeman, Hillsborough, NC

Festival. Cootie Stark was Music Maker's greatest ambassador introducing countless donors to our cause and in the nearly 10 years we worked together we performed hundreds of sets all across America, Europe and Costa Rica.

Cootie issued 2 CDs in his lifetime, *Sugar Man* in 1999 on the Cello Recordings label and *Raw Sugar* on the Music Maker label in 2002. He is a featured voice on *Sol: Volume Blue* and also

appears in the book and CD set *Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America*. He completed work on a new solo CD this past December. We hope to issue that soon.

He and several other Music Maker artists worked with Kenny Wayne Shepherd last spring on DVD set due out this summer and Cootie also starred in the documentary *Living the Blues*.

The South Carolina General Assembly and the Arts Commission named Cootie Stark a recipient of the 2005 SC Folk Heritage Award.

Cootie was a man of tremendous faith and terrific joy. People adored him wherever he went. He had such an open heart and was always ready to make a new friend. Rock stars, millionaires, mechanics or waitresses - they were all the same to Cootie. He always had time for a good story and a chat.

Cootie made you feel like you counted. One way he did this was by giving you a new name - I was "Dee Dee" and among our friends he christened "Wonika the Wonika", "Ole Tim", "Jacki the Jacki", "Dannyland" - and 50 years from now our good buddy Chris Uhler will still be known as "Christmas".

Cootie touched the lives of thousands with his unique, acoustic blues and uplifting testimony. He leaves behind hundreds of friends, many of whom came to visit or called in his last weeks. His legacy lives on through his own Piedmont Blues and the joyous remembrance of his open smile, ready laugh and immense faith.

It is hard to say good-bye to this very dear friend. But Cootie was so adamant, so completely certain that he would spend

©Austin

eternity in the Promised Land. In his confidence, I find comfort knowing that already he is smiling down at us, saying "Dee Dee, you're sooo right." We love you, Cootie - you'll be with us always.

By Denise Duffy

Presented at Memorial Service
April 19, 2005

I struck up a friendship with Cootie in 1995; he desperately wanted to have a career with his music. He told me that he had so many disappointments but was an optimist and gave us a chance to help.

It took us four years but his first CD was issued on Cello Recordings through Sire/WEA, a real major label. Together we traveled to Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Belgium, Italy, South Carolina, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, California, Washington D.C., Indiana, Ohio, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Louisiana, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island,

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, New Hampshire and Vermont, to name a few of the places we spread his music.

One of the most beautiful things about Cootie was that he was always ready to go. When I went out on field trips throughout the South he was always willing to come and was so glad to meet other artists. One trip was with my mother Lucy Duffy, Denise and our one-year old son Lucas. Mom loved that trip and talks about it often, we visited Neal Pattman, Precious Bryant, John Lee Zeigler, Rufus McKenzie, Essie Mae Brooks, James Davis and Mr. Frank Edwards. All of us were just getting to know each other but Cootie somehow brought us very close together,

everyone felt like family. My mom wrote me a note:

"Dear Tim, I called Cootie yesterday. I just chatted and he seemed to listen. Rhonda said phone calls were good for him so I will call often. It is so sad. Think of all you have done for him and the glory you have made possible for him that no one else had done or would do. I told Cootie how I treasured that trip we had in Georgia and how I will never forget the blessings before meals. I think of how poignant it was that not so many years ago he would not even have been allowed in that restaurant. I remember also the prayer he gave on your porch before his first trip "across the pond!" Cootie

has a real depth of spirituality to which we might all aspire. I love you, Mom"

So our great ambassador joins the ever-longer list of Silent strings. Our world was touched by greatness. We must remember that people die but music lives on. We pledge to keep Cootie's music alive.

There is great work to be done. Everyday we learn of artists that deserve our programs. We remain steadfast to our course.

- Tim Duffy, MM President

Dear Friends,

The Blues, America's own creation and tradition, is at the heart of our cultural identity. Unfortunately, its importance in music history is sometimes overlooked and the opportunity for its creators to pass on this tradition to future generations is slipping away. Many Blues pioneers are struggling to make a living through their art as most opportunities for these artists have evaporated in our increasingly homogenized culture. The Music Maker Relief Foundation was created ten years ago to make certain traditional Southern music would survive by supporting not only these artists' music but the artists themselves.



John Dee Holeman and Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Hillsborough, NC ©Duffy

In recognition of 100 years of the musical and cultural impact the Blues has given America, Congress proclaimed 2003 "The Year of the Blues". To celebrate this support the Music Maker Blues Revival made a stop in DC, to stage the 1st Annual Congressional Blues Festival on July 20, 2004. Due to its enormous success the 2nd annual Congressional Blues Festival will be held on Wednesday, May 18th, 2005, 6:30 pm - 11:30 pm at the Historic Lobby at Postal Square (behind Capital Brewing Company next to Union Station).

MMRF Board member Ryan Costello founded this national event to lobby for the support of the Blues in our nation's capitol. It was his brilliant idea to bring together politics, business leaders and the blues in support of MMRF. He has created an exclusive event where key decision makers and their staffs on Capitol Hill experience the real blues. The Congressional Blues Festival is a celebration to honor American roots music in our nation's capitol.



Robert Randolph will be a part of the 2nd Annual Congressional Blues Fest

We thank our hosts Congressman Chip Pickering of Mississippi and Senator Mark Pryor of Arkansas for their great efforts in making this event such a success. We are proud of Music Maker artists Mudcat (GA), Lee Gates (MS), Cool John Ferguson (SC) and George Higgs (NC) bringing their musical gifts to the night. We thank Robert

Randolph and the Family Band for headlining the event. Our deepest appreciation to Kenny Wayne Shepherd and Noah Hunt for taking a break in their intense touring schedule to fly out from Los Angeles to lend their talent to the cause.

We are very grateful to our lead sponsors VW, C2 Group and Tyson Foods for supporting us in our mission in hosting this great evening. We also thank Pepsi, Alltel, Legg Mason, American Event Consulting, Fedex, My Private Doctor, National Association of Broadcasters, The Boston Beer Company, XM Radio, Williams Jensen and Walmart for their sponsorships.

We treasure this opportunity to take the mission of Music Maker to our nation's capitol. Music Maker appreciates all the musicians, corporations and politicians who have taken our cause to heart and we look forward to continuing our work supporting this nation's greatest resource: our American music.

With Warm Regards,

Timothy & Denise Duffy (President & Treasurer)

MM News & Artist Notes



Cast King ©from the collection of Cast King

We are proud to welcome a new Music Maker Recipient, **Cast King**.

Cast King of Pisgah, Alabama is a 78-year old country musician and songwriter who has been entertaining people on Sand Mountain since he was ten years old. Born Joseph King, he received his nickname when teased about the Castoria (a castor oil compound) that his mother regularly administered. At 16 he had his own band, the Alabama Pals and made a living performing on stages at local high schools and radio stations. In the 1940s he toured with his band the Country Drifters and played on stages with Bill Monroe, Carl Story and Flatt and Scruggs. After serving in World War II his singing style changed from bluegrass to country and his voice and songwriting talents caught the attention of

record producers in Nashville and Sun Records in Memphis. There he recorded songs that gained popularity in Europe and have been reissued on a number of retrospective compilations.

Lacking the temperament to pursue stardom, he returned to Pisgah where he remained a local entertainer and in the last few years has become a mentor to young guitarist and Alabama Community Scholar Matt Downer. King was designated a Master Artist by the Alabama State Council on the Arts when Downer received a grant to study guitar with him. Cast and Matt are looking forward booking shows in the Southeast.

Lee Gates is going strong. After a stellar performance at the Savannah Music Festival he visited the MM headquarters. He and Tim drove down to visit Cootie in his last days. Cootie was so glad his traveling buddies checked in with him, he just smiled and enjoyed Lee and Tim playing guitars and carrying on. On a side note, Lee truly desires an American made Albert Collins style Telecaster. If you have one to spare it could not find a better home

Eddie Tigner's car recently set on fire while he was driving on the highway. Eddie was not injured. Music Maker was able to help him with the expenses of fixing his car.

Essie Mae Brooks recently had some rain damage to her bathroom ceiling, she is going to see if one of her relatives can come over and help her fix it. She anxious to play more shows, so if anyone is interested in booking a great gospel act they should give us a call.



Clyde Langford ©Duffy

Clyde Langford has been working with his community to help build an Opera House, they have constructed the building and are now in the process of putting up the roof. Clyde will be performing in this theatre once it has been built.

Adolphus Bell the one-man band has been issued a passport! Thanks to the great help of **Ryan Costello, Amy Nolan, Tim Duffy** and many hours of investigation and lobbying Adolphus has the right to travel. Adolphus has cut 28 songs for his new CD but is coming back to the studio with some new original material to make this debut even better.

Jerry McCain has been feeling fine, but is still having hip problems. He hasn't been playing recently, he states, "If I can't move I can't get in the groove". He's been taking it easy so he can get back in the studio. He reminds everyone to "Keep on loving the Blues!"

The **Music Maker Blues Revival** was greatly heralded at their recent trip to the prestigious **Byron Bay Blues Festival** in Australia. Other performers included **Bo Diddley, REM, Solomon Burke, The Dave Matthews Band**, and many others. The MM Revue was considered the most real and rooted blues to come to this festival in many years. ABC Radio Australia featured shows on **Pura Fé**,

George Higgs, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Sonny Boy King and Albert White. Beverly was written up in the largest paper in the nation "The Australian." The MM Revue played each day for two hours drawing huge crowds including one set in the pouring rain where the crowd just grew and grew. We all had a wonderful time.

Cora Mae Bryant is the daughter of Georgia guitar legend **Curley Weaver**, and on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM, Atlanta, GA, you can celebrate her on Sweet Petunia Day at the Northside Tavern, in Atlanta, GA. If you don't have her CDs in your collection yet, be sure to check out her latest release, "Born in Newton County".

When Tim met **Alan Lomax** in 89, Alan wanted to hear as much as he could about the song-writing apple-pickers Tim knew in the great North west. Recently Tim had the luck to meet up with survivors of this small group of folk heroes known as the "**Rank Strangers**" in Terlingua, Texas where these famous fruit tramps recorded epic poetry and songs. After 30 plus years of not recording as a group and the deaths of fellow bards **William C. Minger IV, Jim Cally, and John Averil**, these recordings will serve as a



Rank Strangers and family ©Duffy

small sampling of a huge lexicon of song-writing genius stemming from the true American Song bag.

On May 18th XM Radio will host a Congressional lunch with **Congressman Chip Pickering, Congressman Jon Porter, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn** joined by **Robert Randolph and the Family Band** and **Music Maker** artists.

Abe Reid and the Spikedrivers stand alone as the unofficial guardians of the traditional art of "blood and guts" musical performance, serving to the masses a blend of Piedmont blues and raw rock 'n roll. After a humble nod to the past, the music blossoms into an experience rich in relevancy and value. Folks of all types relate to the sincerity and honesty embodied within each performance. Basically, these guys embody RAW BLUES that has evolved into a voice for their generation. A new CD will be released by the end of the summer! "CAUTION: Falling Boogie" and numerous other CD's available at www.abereid.com

We wish to congratulate **Ryan Costello** who serves on the Board of Directors of the Music Maker Relief Foundation, for his great vision of mixing politics, fundraising and music altogether to create the Congressional Blues Festival.

We wish to thank **Doc Watson and David Holt** who raised \$20,000 with a benefit concert for **Etta Baker** in April. Congratulations to the generous citizens of Morganton, NC who made this event possible.

Jeff Grill of Athens State University presented **Cool John Ferguson and Captain Luke** at the Historic Theatre. It was a huge success, well attended and great fun. Jeff hopes to have a MM artist back next year.



Tim Duffy, Sonny Boy King, Albert White, Ardie Dean, George Higgs, Sol, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins and Pura Fé at the Byron Bay Festival in Australia ©Carmen Blain

A MUSIC MAKER RELIEF FOUNDATION BENEFIT

2ND ANNUAL THE CONGRESSIONAL BLUES FESTIVAL



FEATURING ROBERT RANDOLPH & THE FAMILY BAND

ALSO MUDCAT • GEORGE HIGGS • LEE GATES • COOL JOHN FERGUSON
SPECIAL GUEST KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT FORGOTTEN BLUES ARTISTS



WEDS MAY 18 at 6:00-11:30PM

2 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, NE WASHINGTON, DC
The historic lobby at Postal Square (next to Union Station)

THANKS FOR KEEPING THE BLUEST OF THE BLUES ALIVE
For more information on this event go to : bluesonthehill.org or call 919-643-2456

Congressional Host Committee

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Senate Chairman Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR)

Master of Cerimones Bill Wax (D-AR)

Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)

Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)

Senator Trent Lott (R-MS)

Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)

Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)

Senator Bill Frist (R-TN)

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Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)

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Congressman Marion Berry (D-AR)

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

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Congressman David Scott (D-GA)

Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS)

Congressman Kenny Hulshof (R-MO)

Congressman John Lewis (D-GA)



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American Event Consulting, FedEx, My Private Doctor, National Association of
Broadcasters, The Boston Beer Company, XM Radio, Wal-Mart

EVENTS

May 18 - Second Annual Congressional Blues Festival
A benefit for the Music Maker Relief Foundation.

May 20 - Cool John Ferguson, Chapel Hill, NC
Local 506, 506 W. Franklin St. Chapel Hill, NC 27516
(919) 942-5506.

May 21 - Cool John Ferguson, Durham NC
All People's Grill, 6122 Guess Road, Durham, NC-
919.620.9591

May 28-29 - Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Adolphus Bell,
George Higgs in Italy to be apart of the Castel San Pietro
Blues Festival. Check out: www.castelsanpietroinblues.it

May 27-29 - Freedom Creek Festival in Italy to be apart
of the Castel San Pietro Blues Festival. Check o

June 4 - Raleigh, NC - John Dee Holeman, Cool John
Ferguson, and Tift Merrit
Grammy award nominee Tift Merrit will be appearing at
the NC Museum of Art for an outdoor night of Music
and Fun!

June 18th - Join John Dee Holeman performing for the
The Rural Heritage Festival, at Lisle Station, Lisle,
Illinois. Museum, 921 School Street, Lisle, Illinois (25
minutes southwest of Chicago) phone 630/968-0499

June 19 - Philadelphia, PA - Lightnin' Wells and
George Higgs
Will be appearing at the National Liberty Museum
<http://www.libertymuseum.org/> between 2-3pm.

June 19 - Petersborough, England, Little Pink Anderson
Little Pink will be traveling to England to play for the
town of Petersborough. If you live in the area and want to
know more email info@musicmaker.org for telephone
numbers.

June 25 - Cool John Ferguson, Durham NC
All People's Grill, 6122 Guess Road, Durham, NC-
919.620.9591

Friday, July 1 - Beverly "Guitar" Watkins at the
Mississippi Valley Blues Festival
See Beverly on the opening day of the Mississippi Valley
Blues Festival in Davenport,
Iowa. <http://www.mvbs.org/fest.htm>

July 16 - Cool John Ferguson, Durham NC
All People's Grill, 6122 Guess Road, Durham, NC-
919.620.9591

July 28-31 - Cognac, France - Willie King and the
Liberators, George Higgs, Adolphus Bell and Tim Duffy
Music Maker will be apart of the Cognac Blues Passions
festival in Cognac, France. Visit [http://www.bluespas-
sions.com](http://www.bluespas-
sions.com) to learn more.

August 12th - Billings, MT - Beverly "Guitar" Watkins
The Magic City Blues festival welcomes Beverly "Guitar"
Watkins and band to their festival. Visit [http://www.mag-
iccityblues.com](http://www.mag-
iccityblues.com) for more information.

August 20th - Dalton GA - Sisters of the South
Sweet Betty, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins and Essie Mae
Brooks will join together for a night of music in at the
Wink Theater. Visit <http://winktheatre.org/> for
directions and contact information.

October 1 - Madison, GA - Beverly "Guitar" Watkins
Be sure to check out the Lake Oconee Jazz and Blues
Festival for a great day of music. Visit [http://www.lake-
countryjazz.com](http://www.lake-
countryjazz.com) for more information.



Cootie Stark

1926 - 2005



with Sam Stevens and Carl Rutherford, Asheville, NC ©Duffy



with James Davis, Perry, GA ©Duffy



with Ruth Brown ©Duffy



Newport R&B festival with Tim Duffy ©Gahr



Great American Music Hall, San Francisco, CA ©Austin



Great American Music Hall, CA with Taj Mahal ©Austin



Lugano Switzerland ©



Greyhound bus station



Newport R&B Festival ©Saverese



with Neal Pattman, Port Townsend, WA ©Duffy



©Duffy



with Pinetop Perkins, Switzerland ©Duffy



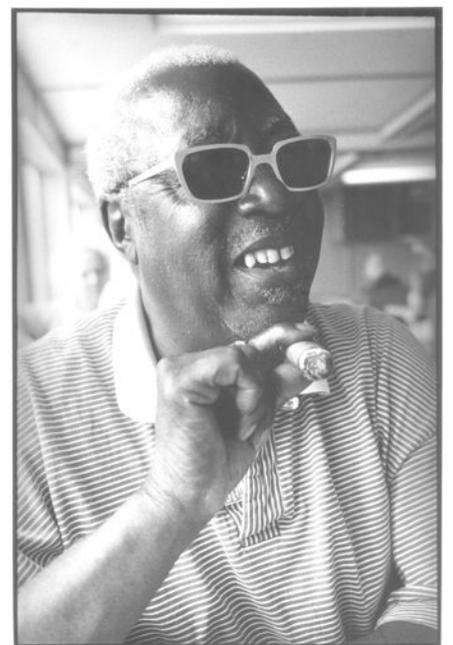
Phoenix, AZ ©Markow



with Dave McGrew, Durham, NC ©Küstner



at Northside Tavern, Atlanta, GA ©Duffy



Montauk Ferry, Long Island ©Duffy

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The Feelings of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins rerelease "Beverly is the leading woman guitar of her generation."
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Taj Mahal with Music Maker Blues Blues icon Taj Mahal backs up MM artists!
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Rainin' in New Orleans "Slewfoot and Cary B. continue with their New Orleans Odyssey"
Macavine Hayes: Drinkhouse A powerful, raw release after 50 years of playing the blues.

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 MM100...\$30
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 Three CDs (Guitar Gabriel, Deep in the South, Cootie Stark, Raw Sugar, Neal Pattman, Prison Blues) issued in 1999 by Cello Recordings, the top of line Music Maker Series.
 Elegantly produced with full color booklets with short stories, Vietnamese literature, essays, and the outsider art of the late James Herald Jennings and photographs by Axel Kustner, Mark Austin and Tim Duffy.

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 RC100...\$100 4 New Release CDs for the course of the year for \$100

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Taj Mahal's FISHING BLUES TOURNAMENT

The 3rd Annual Fishin' Blues Tournament, February 2005

Congratulations to the winners of the 3rd Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament! We hosted 23 anglers at Roy's Zancudo Lodge in Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica. There were 163 sailfish caught and released in 3 days of superb fishing that also featured catches of dorado, wahoo, rooster fish, tuna and a marlin. The big winners were:

Biggest Fish - Jeff Gable of Middleburg, Va with a 300 lb marlin

Most Sailfish - David Bernatzky of L. I., NY who pulled in 16 sails

The Sportsmanship Award went to **Brian McBride** of Cleveland, OH for enthusiastically demonstrating the spirit of the event - off shore and on.

The other big winner was **Blane Wright** of Baltimore. He proposed to **Stacey Burgess** on the beautiful beach of Playa Zancudo and she said "yes". Stacey came in a close 3rd in the Most Sailfish category. Congrats to Blane for passing the fishin' test!

Our deepest appreciation to all the participants:

Joe Bagwell, Nancy Bagwell, David Bernatzky, Stacey Burgess, Dewuis Cooke, Don Delavergne, Edouard Des Fracs, Ray Evans, Jeff Gable, Jim Krzyzewski, Mari Clare Krzyzewski, Taj Mahal, Lee Manigault, Brian McBride, Bill Puckett, Chris Sewell, Henry Slyker, Sean Sullivan, Tom Sullivan, Willie Suter, Capt Buddy Vanderhoop, Michelle Van Helmond, Blaine Wright

This year's event was the most successful yet, raising over \$40,000 for MMRF. Hats off to **Taj Mahal** for bringing us together once again and to tournament founder **Bill Lucado** for his generous gift of \$5,000 the night of the concert. We would also like to recognize MMRF board members **John Price, Henry Slyker, Bill Puckett, Ryan**

Costello and Mudcat for their hard work and enthusiasm for the event. Many thanks to our generous fishermen that also made MMRF the beneficiary of gifts from the Calcutta and Superbowl Pools - Cheers to **Joe & Nancy Bagwell, Don Delavergne, Jeff Gable, David Bernatzky** and all the Super Bowlers. Special honors to **Lee Manigault** for challenging fishermen to match her gift of \$1,000. Hats off to **Henry Slyker, John Price & Dewuis Cooke** for meeting this challenge and **Ray Evans** for his pledge.

The concert on the 10th featured **Mudcat, Lee Gates, Tres Amigos, Cool John Ferguson** and the **Taj Mahal Trio** was attended by over 500 enthusiastic fans!

Many thanks to **Roy Ventura**, his family and staff for taking such good care of us and to all the residents of Playa Zancudo for sharing their slice of paradise with Music Maker!

We are already making plans for the 4th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament in January 29-Feb 4, 2006, details to follow soon!

Carolina Blues Salvation

Rediscovering the South's venerable blues performers led this couple down a road of reclamation.

Visitors to Tim and Denise Duffy's rural Hillsborough wood shop might mistake it for the end of the road. But the refurbished shop next to the couple's log cabin home actually marks a beginning for them and dozens of aging musicians whose early work formed the roots of American music.

The Duffys founded the nonprofit Music Maker Relief Foundation to aid aging musicians across the South, many of who have been living in poverty for decades. While offering blues masters funds for medicine, food, and housing, Music Maker puts able artist back onstage - often after years of obscurity - restoring a joy to their lives.

In the last 15 years, the Duffys have helped nearly 100 musicians. "Poverty is not unique," Tim says. "If they are lucky, they are living on Social Security checks of \$350 to \$450 a month, and after rent they have about \$150 for a car, food, and medicine. The living is horrendous.

"But they have such great gifts. The music and the culture they spawned in this country have given birth to a recording industry making billions of dollars," he continues. "There is not a popular style of music unaffected by the blues."

In His Blood

Now 41, Tim developed his love for roots music before he ever picked up a guitar. His father often took him and his three brothers backstage to meet the musicians he admired. At 15, Tim took up the guitar, honing his skills alongside those artists.

In 1989, working with the Southern Folklife Collection at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Tim met James "Guitar Slim" Stephens, who introduced him to Carolina blues.

"Everyone had told me these people no longer existed," Tim recalls. But Guitar Slim proved the scholars wrong, as did Winston-Salem bluesman "Guitar Gabriel" Jones, also known as "Gabe". When Tim met him, Gabe lived in a housing project, playing in run-down neighborhood drink houses for much admiration but little pay. After becoming Gabe's business partner, Tim met dozens of other musicians, many living in poverty but aching to work.

A Crack in the Door

Tim found himself caring for aging artists. He took them to pay bills, cash Social Security checks, and buy food, often using money from his own pockets. He worked tirelessly to earn their trust, speaking initially through closed doors until they opened barely a crack. He even gave used guitars to artists who hadn't owned an instrument in years.

"All it is, is trust," he says. "So much trust has been broken." Tim built his relationships into a small business, booking gigs and recording CDs so the musicians could sell their own music. By 1993, Tim and Denise decided their altruism needed a framework. Thus, they created the Music Maker Relief Foundation with the help of audio pioneer Mark Levinson.

In 1995, Tim spent an afternoon with Eric Clapton talking about the foundation, listening to field recordings of rediscovered blues artists, and celebrating their music. Clapton, who rarely lends his name for endorsements, recorded acoustic guitar duets with Tim. That "stamp of approval," Tim says, led directly to a job with N2K Records - run by Larry Rosen and jazz legend Dave Grusin. Clapton later endorsed a book about Music Maker musicians.

The Living Past

The foundation "had wings," says Denise, but Tim needed help. "He was so good with the artists and the music," she adds. "I could help him with the business and deal with the accountants and lawyers."

The Duffys developed a program of roots music called "The Living Past," raising \$20,000 for Music Maker in its first weekend. With Tim as producer, Cello Recordings issued several Music Maker releases. Donations poured into the foundation, and musical giants such as B.B. King, Bonnie Raitt, and Taj Mahal embraced the cause, advised the foundation, and lent their renowned names.

Today Music Maker provides grants for life maintenance, instrument acquisition, tour support, and emergency relief. They also offer a program that brings visiting blues artists to the Hillsborough studio for professional development.

Folklorist's Musical Legacy After 10 years, Music Maker's efforts have resulted in thousands of concerts and 55 CDs.

When these aging blues makers find themselves playing Carnegie Hall, strumming with B.B. King, or opening for Aretha Franklin, the Duffys watch their legacy at work. "When artists see themselves in a different light," says Denise, "that's one of the most valuable gifts we give them."

By Susan Byrum Roundtree

First appeared in Southern Living March 2005

JOIN THE RECORD CLUB

June Release is Precious Bryant



To find out more visit musicmaker.org

You can help issue CDs for the recipient artists. Most of these men and women have spent a lifetime performing their music and have never recorded.

Join the "Givin' It Back Record Club" for \$100, 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. You will be the first to receive a brand new release prior to us offering it to our website and mailings. We thank you for your support and we hope you join with us in trying to issue as many in this series as we can.

Music Maker Book

BOOK/CD \$35

The story of Music Maker comes to life in this beautiful collection of photos and writings. The 70 musicians profiled in this book take you on a soulful ride you'll never forget. Includes a 23-track CD and a forward by B.B. King. 208 pages, 11" x 8", 160 b&w photographs, hardcover.

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Macavine Hayes, Pinnacle, NC



Ask Amy

Email your questions to amy@musicmaker.org!

I keep looking at Macavine Hayes in the MM book, what a great photo! He looks so cool. Can you tell me more about him?
-Susy L. Apples, Toronto, Canada

Macavine is just a wonderful dancer. He can swing two ladies on the floor all night long. He lives in Winston-Salem, NC and is one of the original MM recipients. His new CD, Drink House is absolutely great, the recording, the band is so tight.

Macavine music is so completely original, I urge you to get a copy.

How is Neal Pattman doing?
Ed Hooper, Elkton, MD

One-armed harmonica playing genius Neal Pattman recently had hip replacement surgery and is doing the best he can. Please send letters to Neal Pattman, Grandview Care Center, 165 Winston Drive, Athens, GA 30607