



Newsletter Credits: Written by Timothy & Denise Duffy, Design by Amy Nolan The Music Maker Rag is published by Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. email: info@musicmaker.org © 2004 MMRF. All Rights Reserved.

Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern musical traditions gain recognition and meeting their day-to-day needs. Today, many such musicians are living in extreme poverty and need food, shelter, medical care, and other assistance. Music Maker's aid and service programs improve the quality of recipients' lives. Our work affirms to these artists that we value the gifts of music and inspiration they have delivered to the world. Our mission is to give back to the roots of American music.

Our criterion for recipients is that they be rooted in a Southern musical tradition, be 55 years or older and have an annual income less than \$18,000.

Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. is a tax exempt, public charity under IRS code 501(c)3.

Board of Directors
Timothy Duffy - President
Denise Duffy
Taj Mahal
Daniel "Mudcat" Dudeck
Lightnin' Wells
Bill Puckett
John Price
Henry Slyker
Ryan Costello

Advisory Board
B.B. King
Bonnie Raitt
Levon Helm
Dickey Betts
Jimmy Herring
Derek Trucks
Susan Tedeschi
Carey Williams
Tom Rankin
Sue Foley
Colonel Bruce Hampton
Pura Fe
Ken Shepard
Kenny Wayne Shepard
Jerry Harrison

- Music Maker Programs**
- **Life Maintenance** - Grants for necessities such as food, medical needs, housing, etc.
 - **Instrument Acquisition** - Provides quality instruments and maintenance funds to recipient musicians.
 - **Tour Support** - Provides funding and services to musicians wishing to tour and record.
 - **Emergency Relief** - Substantial one-time grants to recipients in crisis (medical, fire, theft, etc.)
 - **Visiting Artist Program** - Brings artists to our headquarters for professional development and assessment of needs.

MUSIC MAKER
The Official Newsletter of the Music Maker Relief Foundation
Summer 2004
Vol. 10, No. 3

COOTIE STARK

Playing Backup

Tim Duffy Helps Blues Pioneers, Preserves Musical Legacy

By Peter Jennings, ABC News



Little Freddie King, New Orleans JazzFest

©Tim Duffy

April 30 — Tim Duffy is trying to preserve the work of America's older blues musicians.

"It's not what you get out of this life," said Duffy. "It's what you leave behind. I am trying to leave behind a legacy. I love recordings. I love music. I am trying to leave a legacy of recordings behind."

This week, Duffy was in New Orleans to help musician Little Freddie King get ready for his set at the annual Jazzfest.

There is not a popular music in the world today, claimed Duffy, which is not touched by the blues.

"It's the root. It's the aquifer. It's what all

American musicians drink from. They come up with their own thing, but it comes from somewhere, it comes from black music, from the South."

The blues evolved largely from work songs and spirituals and very often express worry or depression. The men and women that Duffy discovers have often

fallen on hard times themselves.

This week Duffy visited see Etta Baker, the 90-year-old Piedmont blues legend who lives in North Carolina.

Duffy has turned his passion into the Music Maker Foundation. It records and promotes the pioneers, and it is something of a welfare agency too.

Record archives don't put food on the table. "So if I can help someone with \$200 a month, that increases sometimes their income 50 percent a year. They can buy glaucoma medicine so they don't go blind. That's really real," said Duffy.

The foundation raises money through individual and corporate donations, which means, in turn, that 75-year-old bluesman John Dee Holeman gets a new heater and a truckload of vitamins.

Bluesman "Captain" Luke Mayer got a check for his April 30 — Tim Duffy is trying to preserve the work of America's older blues musicians.

"You need the phone so we can remind you to go to the doctor's," Duffy told Mayer. "It stinks not having a phone."

More than 100 musicians get help. Little Freddie King got a couple of jobs playing music. He bought himself a new bicycle and the medicine for his glaucoma.

"These musicians want to be recognized," said Duffy. "These musicians want to work. They want a gig. They don't want a handout, they want a hand up."



Captain Luke, Winston Salem

©Tim Duffy

Duffy's Early Beginnings

Duffy grew up in Connecticut. His dad was an avid record collector.

"At age 15, he got me a guitar, and that's all I did for hours and hours. I spent from 15 to 23 doing nothing but playing music," said Duffy.

Duffy has a master's degree in folklore from the University of North Carolina. It was there that he met a local music legend called Guitar

Gabriel.

"I took him inside and [he] played some blues, and it was so real and starting," he said. "Truly I didn't sleep for a week. I knew I'd do anything for this guy."

He would do the same for a lot of others — though it isn't always easy.

"I've talked to screen doors and closed doors for an hour and a half trying to get a guy to open the door to talk to me just because I was a white guy in some weird part of Alabama where white people usually don't go," he said.

Duffy and his wife, Denise, run Music Maker from their home in North Carolina. In 10 years they've made 50 CDs. The musicians get 100 percent of the profits.

"He's been wonderful to us," said Captain Luke of Duffy.

"Whatever I need, he's there or he'll be there to come to my rescue," added

Holeman.

"It gives me the inspiration to want to keep trying," said Baker.

Last Saturday Duffy was at Jazzfest to back up Little Freddie King. That's what he does. He backs up the musicians, in more ways than one.

"It wasn't my lot in life to be just a professional guitarist, which I thought I was going to start out to be," said Duffy. "I just have a passion for music, it's what I love."

Guitarist puts vibe on film

By David Manconi, originally printed News and Observer June 15, 2004

HILLSBOROUGH -- Absently strumming his guitar, Kenny Wayne Shepherd sat in a field as an assistant applied makeup and teased his stylish blond locks.

The 27-year-old blues-rock star usually plays large venues for thousands of people. But Sunday found him in rural splendor -- seated by a vegetable garden alongside 70-something bluesmen Cootie Stark and Neal Pattman, cameras rolling for a documentary.

Even before the makeup artist and camera crew had finished, Shepherd, Stark and Pattman were cooking on "Prison Blues." Shepherd and

Stark chugged along on their acoustic guitars while Pattman spun out verse after verse.

"Every mornin' 'bout the break of day, 'Pick and shovel in my hand..."

All three players were dialed in, guitars intertwining as Pattman sang and Stark threw in asides as commentary: "Uh huh ... That's right ... I expect so." This was too good to miss, and the camera crew scrambled to capture the moment in the fading evening light.

"If they ever let me go, Big daddy won't be a bad boy no mo'..."

Finally, the song wound down with Pattman quietly murmuring an a cappella coda: "Will I ever make my way back home?"

Several dozen onlookers applauded, and then it was time to strike the set and move on. But the good vibes lingered.

"That was just magic," producer Jerry Harrison said.

Shepherd is a hotshot guitarist from Louisiana with one platinum and two gold albums, and equally credible star power behind him. Ex-Talking Head Harrison produces his albums, and he plays with the late Stevie Ray Vaughan's Double Trouble rhythm section.

Shepherd's next album is finished, but won't be out until September. So Shepherd decided to get an early start on his next project, a still-untitled documentary pairing him with older blues players both famous and obscure. The lineup

includes B.B. King, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Hubert Sumlin and area acts from Tim Duffy's Music Maker Relief Foundation stable -- Pattman, Stark, Cool John Ferguson, Essie Mae Brooks, J

John Dee Holeman and Etta Baker.

"My next album is pretty major rock 'n' roll," Shepherd said between takes. "So we decided it's a good time to do this. I've always had a lot of blues fans, so this will be all hard-core blues. And we can give some of these people the recognition they deserve."

Sunday's session was at the Music Maker compound near Hillsborough, in the midst of a 10-day barnstorm that concludes Friday in Salina, Kan. In traveling the South, the 27-member crew has battled technical glitches and foul weather as well as a tight schedule.

There was a power outage in Shreveport, La., and the air conditioning on one of the tour buses conked out in Alabama.

"Man," Shepherd said soon after getting off his bus Sunday, "there's bugs here."

"You're in the country, boy," said Ken Shepherd, the guitarist's father and manager.

There were dogs, too. Tiger and Ejo, the Duffy family's large canines, roamed the grounds and occasionally became part of the show. As Pattman and Stark sat for an interview, the dogs



Kenny Wayne Shepard and Etta Baker, Morganton, NC

©Tim Duffy

wrestled audibly behind the camera and even became amorous, to the silent snickers of the film crew. Finally, a cameraman picked up a stick and flung it into the nearby woods to get the dogs to leave.

On-camera, director Noble Jones asked the taciturn Pattman how he feels when he plays music ("I feel good"), if he fears death ("No"), about the future of music.

"The blues will always be," Pattman said simply. There was a pause.

"I think, Neal, that they, uh, want you to talk a little more when you answer questions," Duffy said.

Show your support...
Throw a Music Maker
Birthday Bash!



To find out more visit
musicmaker.org



Jerry Harrison, Hillsborough, NC

©Tim Duffy

Dear Friends,

On April 30th Peter Jennings and producer Judy Isikow of ABC News gave us one of the best 10th birthday presents Music Maker has received so far this year by featuring Tim as "Person of the Week." This great acknowledgement meant so much to all artists and people that have given freely for so many years to our mission. These four and one half minutes on prime-time



John Dee Holeman and ABC News Crew, Music Maker's Headquarters, Hillsborough, NC ©T. Duffy

national television introduced 20 million viewers to the wonderful artists that are associated with the Music Maker Relief Foundation. We thank Andy for what he started with his article in the New York Times and all of the recent attention we have received from media such as "Foreign Correspondent" an Australian based show that is aired throughout Asia, Europe and Scandinavia, the Christian Science Monitor and Our State Magazine of North Carolina. We are blessed to have the support of Katharine Walton our genius publicist who has dedicated herself to Music Maker.

After a spring full of traveling and doing our best to keep up with everything, we recently took some time to visit new and long-time recipient

artists. We were awed to meet Henry Byrd of Sanford, Florida, a 91 year old blues artist, J.C. McCool of Black Mt. North Carolina, an old-time mountain musician for who has been a recipient for 10 years was in fine spirits, Little Freddie King of New Orleans, Louisiana knocked them dead at the Jazz & Heritage Festival. It is amazing how many talented musicians that we keep meeting and who find us. It is much different from our beginnings, when we hopped in our van and drove to little towns in the South, stopping at filling stations to inquire of old musicians in town.

Our world has expanded, and there is a steep rise in the interest in Roots music nationally. However this rarely means that the most real and authentic musicians of these genres receive benefit from such attention to the music their culture created. So, in realizing the 1000s of musicians that are in need of the programs that Music Maker provides, we remain determined to develop this organization and maintain a solid national presence with the resources to help nurture and provide real tangible assistance to our countries most valuable cultural resource, the men and women who keep our original musical traditions alive.

With warm regards,

Timothy & Denise Duffy

Artists Notes

Henry "Mojo" Thompson, a rocking, bass playing king of the Phoenix blues scene and a friend to Music Maker, passed away in May after a long battle with complications surrounding diabetes. With a musical career that extends back to the doo wop and rhythm and blues scenes of 1950's Arizona and southern California, "Mojo" Thompson and his rollicking bass will be deeply missed.

A number of our artists are suffering with ailments. We visited **J.C. McCool** recently and he just lost a kidney, his sight is about gone and he cannot hear to well. He played some wonderful guitar and a mournful blues on the fiddle. J.C. was very touched by our visit and told us of how much we have helped him over the years. He said that he prayed for Music Maker and offered to pray for anyone who was in need of a prayer. Many of the artists we work with have health issues. Etta Baker at 91 is suffering with heart disease, but is still performing and selling as many CDs as we send up. Cootie Stark was diagnosed with prostate cancer this March. He has undergone radiation therapy and is doing well. He is looking forward to a summer of traveling to festivals, a few bookings in the fall and a show in Paris in November. Henry Spencer of Cambridge, MA is suffering with cancer but at the moment seems to be doing well fighting this devastating disease. Carl Hodges is suffering with

circulation to his feet, Carl Rutherford remains strong but has many ailments, Captain Luke, Whistlin' Britches have had slight medical problems. So we plan on calling on J.C. and telling him of the many artists we serve that are in need of a prayer for their health.

Congratulations go out to Music Maker's and War, West Virginia's own **Carl Rutherford**. On May 29th he won the Vandalia Award. This honor is presented by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History annually to a West Virginian who has made outstanding contributions to the continuation of the state's folk heritage. The award recognizes lifetime achievement in the performance, creation or perpetuation of the West Virginia traditional arts. Carl received two standing ovations at the event, one after his performance and again after receiving the award at the West Virginia State Theatre of the Cultural Center. Carl's original music and masterful musicianship blend a plethora of folk stylings that have to be heard to be believed, making this award much deserved - so if you haven't already, check out Carl's Turn Off the Fear album to see why.

Renowned drummer and co-founder of The Band, **Levon Helm** wants to "put both feet" in with Music Maker. Levon hopes to meet, perform and record with Music Maker artists as soon as he can. Mark Coltraine writes:

I recently spoke to the candid Mr. Helm over

the telephone. He was at his home in Woodstock, NY. Helm says he's excited about meeting up with Tim and rocking Congress. The two recently met through mutual friends and mutual love of Blues music. He's also very adamant in his championing of the Music Maker cause saying, "I can find no fault with anything Music Maker does." Helm expresses his enthusiasm in particular for Music Maker's Instrument Acquisition Program; and he's especially pleased with Music Maker's no frills album production style, "Everything should serve the music," he says, "what Tim is doing is great. The music is not over produced. The fact that it's recorded cleanly helps to make this music as timeless as it is."

Helm also said he's looking forward to working with Tim on many more projects in the near future. Keep your eyes and ears open for updates on this great newfound friendship.

Mudcat is busy preparing to record a live CD at the Northside Tavern.

Slewfoot checks in and is having an incredibly depressing hard time busking on the streets. If anyone has any work for Slew and Carey down in New Orleans please contact us.



Slewfoot, New Orleans, LA ©Tim Duffy

Benji Griffith and **Tim** recently traveled to Sanford, FLA and visited 91 year old **Henry Byrd** who actually met and performed on the streets with musicians such as Blind Boy Fuller. He is in amazing shape and plays some incredible music. We were also honored by an incredible impromptu performance by **David Butler**.

Josh Morin our social intern wrote in after a day in Winston-Salem this June: "I went out to Winston this morning. I met with **Whistlin' Britches** and took him to the social work office in the Pavillion Medical Center. He was referred to an organization called Forsyth Inc. The social worker thought that would be the place to go to next.

Also, I found out that Haskell had contacted a lawyer in the past about getting disability. Too bad he has lost all of his paper work and does not remember the name of the lawyer. I doubt he got very far with the lawyer, but it's an intriguing idea and I am going to look into this...

Captain Luke was able to get his cell phone turned back on. Its quite a site to see Luke in his captain's hat with a shiny new cell phone attached to his belt."



J.C. McCool, Black Mountain, NC ©Tim Duffy

J.C. McCool is the last surviving member of a group of musicians in and around Black Mountain, NC that had a profound impact on early country music. His best friend Walt Davis help record the first hillbilly version of Corinne Corrinna, which went on to be an international standard. J.C. composed the "Black Mountain Rag" on the fiddle, which for years has been considered a standard fiddle tune for decades. I met J.C. in 1981 and he taught me all about old-time mountain music, back then musicians were extreme stylists no two musicians sounded the same, in this day and time that is something that is highly unusual in the old time music scene. J.C. has been a recipient of our Life Maintenance program since our inception and it has made it possible for remain living somewhat comfortably at his old home place.

Eddie Tigner of Atlanta has his birthday on August 14th. Eddie is looking for gigs for the summer. Send Birthday Cards to: 2000 Hutchinson St, Atlanta, GA 30307.

Little Pink Anderson is doing well. Selling a great number of CDs and looking forward to doing as many gigs as he can. He is playing great and is truly the real deal.

Haskel "Whistlin' Britches" Thompson is doing better after his finger surgery in May. He'll soon be back up to his old tricks at upcoming Music Maker concerts - watch out for this always entertaining clown prince of the Blues.

Way to go **Lee Gates**, who's a growing phenomenon on XM radio. Mr. Gates (also the current featured artist at music-

maker.org) is getting a considerable amount of play, which is no surprise considering his recent Music Maker release with the Alabama Cotton Kings is smoking hot. There's simply no excuse if you still don't have a copy. It is essential music, period.

The Bull City's own, **Mr. John Dee Holeman** has a much-anticipated new album set for a Fall 2004 release. I hope I'm not letting too many cats out of this blues bag, but this new release will feature the likes of Cool John Ferguson, Taj Mahal, and Kenny Wayne Shepherd. I think it's safe to say that this one's gonna come on like gangbusters and rock wigs until the proverbial pigs sprout wings. Keep your eyes and ears peeled and hold on to your suspenders.

Speaking of upcoming releases, here's another one to anticipate. Tim's in the process of putting together a boxed set of **Etta Baker's** material for a late Fall 2004 release just in time for Christmas. Now, this material isn't just what has been recorded with Music Maker, but stuff that spans this brilliant lady's life...stuff that's not too readily available anywhere else...recordings I'll bet you haven't ever heard...Piedmont guitar magic that has to be heard to be believed...catch my drift? This is something not to be taken lightly, so be on the lookout to dip in and dive on this soon to be available treasure chest.

Pura Fe's, "Follow Your Heart's Desire" is finished and is in the process of getting the artwork complete. It is the first Music Maker release for this unique lady whose strong spiritual presence and wisdom are translated directly from her intimate, soulful voice to your heart of hearts. Pura Fe called in and proudly announced that Ulali the singing/drum group that she has traveled for the last 18 years was just honored with an award for their "Inspired Voice" along with Buffie St. Marie, Tantoo Cardinal, Cicily Tyson and Lisa Bonnet

This summer's **Warehouse Blues Series** is still rolling successfully along in Durham, NC and will continue to through September. For more information on who's jamming when in order to make your required presence known, head on over to musicmaker.org.

Essie Mae Days

Mark Coltrain, MMRF Intern who recently graduated from UNCG, spent an afternoon with gospel legend **Essie Mae Brooks**

When Amy asked me if I would pick up Essie Mae Brooks at Raleigh/Durham Airport for the recording session of an upcoming album featuring duets of several Music Maker artists with Kenny Wayne Shepherd, I leapt at the chance. Not only would I be able to lend a hand to a busy group of folks preparing for a hectic weekend, but I would finally get to meet the lady who is behind the most inspiring album in Music Maker's catalog, *Rain in Your Life* and who is featured on a recent favorite that lead to a popular world tour, *Sisters of the South*.

Essie Mae's flight arrived at RDU a little after 10:30 on Saturday morning, June 12 and, after narrowly avoiding a ticket on my illegally parked car from airport security, I found her sitting in the baggage claim area patiently waiting for her bags and her ride to Hillsborough. After getting her luggage and loading up the car, we headed west and proceeded to converse about her life and the sanctifying music she creates with her one of a kind voice and poetic songwriting.

Living and thriving most of her life in and around Perry, Georgia, the seat of Houston County in Georgia's heartland, Essie Mae remembers a hard-working but good childhood. Like most folks from the area Essie Mae grew up on a farm of mostly cotton, but unlike most folks her upbringing was in a family of musicians. She recalls her father as an entertaining drummer, her uncle as a guitar player and drummer, and grandfather who played harmonica who all encouraged her musically which initiated her vocal aspirations. Essie Mae would get up on chairs in her house and sing along with her

father, grandfather, or just by herself from about age 3 or 4 and said she enjoyed every minute of it. Not long after she began writing songs and singing in her local church on Sundays. As she grew and her voice matured, Mahalia Jackson became a big influence on her and rightly so, when it comes to gospel outside of Rosetta Tharpe, there is no better source of influence and inspiration than Jackson. But as the years went by, it became more apparent as can be seen now that Essie Mae brings a genuine earthy quality to her singing and songwriting that makes it among the most contemplative, intimate and ultimately accessible gospel with a hint of blues there is to hear. Hers is the shining voice of an experienced matriarch whose faith and unassuming demeanor serves as an example to us all.

We stopped at Honey's right off Guess Road in Durham for a bite to eat and continued to talk about her children and grandchildren, who all have come to live relatively close to Essie Mae in Perry, the farthest one away being a son in Atlanta about two hours north. She has another son who plays blues and gospel guitar. They play and sing together often and she mentioned the hopes of doing a recording project with her son and Tim sometime in the next year or so. Until then she is content performing not only at her home church but is frequently asked to share her gifts in many other congregations around the area.

We also talked of the Sisters of the South tour which took Essie Mae, along with Sweet Betty and Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, to not only a number of diverse cities around the United States but even as far as Switzerland. She spoke enthusiastically of the tour and the travel and was quick to add how she became especially fond of Beverly's guitar magic. It's things like the tour and recording an album she enjoys most about being a part of Music Maker. As an artist who was been with Music Maker since near its beginning, Tim and Denise entered Essie Mae's

life as sources of hope and inspiration so she, in turn, could provide the same for the thousands of folks who have experienced her own uniquely personal songs and singing worldwide.

After our meal, I dropped Essie Mae off at Denise and Tim's house and thanked her for her interesting conversation. I smiled all the way home and looked forward with great anticipation to the next day as Essie Mae, along with John Dee Holeman, Neal Pattman, and Cootie Stark would all be recording with Kenny Wayne Shepherd in Hillsborough.

When I arrived on Sunday afternoon, I learned that things were running behind, so the recording wouldn't begin for a couple more hours. Things were still running crazy around the Fortress of Blues-itude with a couple of dozen people making last minute preparations. And, after stopping outside to nod my head and cop a listen at the calm eye in the midst of that frenzied storm to John Dee, Cootie, and Neal jamming in tribute to the late great Ray Charles playing "Georgia On My Mind," I found my way inside the house to Essie Mae, calm and patiently waiting on Tim and Denise's sofa, much like I had first found her the day before in the middle of a busy airport.

We picked right up where we left off the day before and I asked her why she wasn't outside where all the action was.

"The air out there's not good for my voice, you know," she replied.

Indeed, while not too hot, the cloudy day air hanging thick with North Carolina humidity made sense to avoid in addition to all the technical crews buzzing around. We continued chatting about what she would have been doing at home on a normal Sunday, to which she replied, "singing in church until about 2:00 or 3:00 in the afternoon."

While excited about the recording session, Essie Mae seemed eager to get back home and keep on doing what she's been doing for over



Vicky from The Waifs, Hillsborough, NC
The Waifs are folk group based in Australia. In recent years they have had huge success touring in the States, doing several tours opening for Bob Dylan. The Waifs came by our headquarters for a day between shows, we pulled out dozens of guitars, Cool John came by, and Dave McGrew helped open some musical doors into deep Americana for this group of very fine musicians.

© T. Duffy

our **Tenth Birthday Bash** that took place on Music Maker Headquarters!

Music Maker would like to welcome new board members **Ryan Costello** and **Henry Slyker**.

Recording artist **Kenny Wayne Shepherd**, his dad **Ken** and singer **Noah Hunt** visited us in Hillsborough this May. Great recordings were made with John Dee Holeman and Cool John. We talked and this father and son team made a very strong commitment in helping Music Maker. This upcoming project will feature MM artists Essie Mae Brooks, Cootie Stark, Neal Pattman, Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Cool John Ferguson and Etta Baker.

We are in the planning stages and filming **another documentary** on Music Maker artists.

Many thanks go to **Anne Vance**, CEO of Pavilion International, for the generous gift of drug and alcohol rehabilitation to any Music

Maker artist with this need. Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Pavilion has been helping individuals turn their lives around since 1996.

Many thanks to new board member **Ryan Costello** who has enlisted the sponsorship of VW and others.

Thanks to **Wayne Martin**, Folklife Director of the North Carolina Arts Council, for remastering and releasing tapes to Music Maker of the brilliant Etta Baker. More to come on these aural gems soon.

We are looking for **web publicity volunteers** for MM. This to help spread the word of new releases.

We are thrilled about being part of the **1st Annual Congressional Blues Festival** on July 20th, When Politics and the Blues meet for a night of music overlooking the Capitol. This fund-raising event will feature the music of Levon Helm, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Mudcat, and Cool John Ferguson. Check out the website: Bluesonthehill.org

sixty years - singing her songs; brightening lives and spreading the good news to all listeners.

Though, to tell the truth, Essie Mae did just that to this listener all weekend long. Unfortunately, a prior obligation didn't let me stay long enough for the recording session, but the words we shared about her life and music over the course of two days made up for all that. Besides, Rain in Your Life is always within reach of my CD player.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2
Drink Small at the Warehouse Blues Series

July 4
The Mississippi Valley Blues Festival in Davenport, Iowa. A host of MM artists will be performing at the festival including:
2:30pm - Cootie Stark workshop
4pm - Lee Gates
5:30pm - Cootie Stark w/Taj Mahal
8pm - Sweet Betty
The event will be held at LeClaire Park - Davenport, IA. Call 563-322-5837 for more information

July 10
Music Makers at Ottawa Blues Fest, Ottawa, Canada
12:45 pm Little Pink Anderson
2:00 pm Lee Gates
3:30 pm Mudcat
5:00 pm Cool John Ferguson
7:45 pm Beverly "Guitar" Watkins
9:30 pm Taj Mahal

July 16
John Dee Holeman and Billy Stevens at the Warehouse Blues Series

July 30
Cool John Ferguson at the Warehouse Blues Series

Aug 13
Slewfoot and Cary B. at the Warehouse Blues Series

Aug 27th
Abe Reid at the Warehouse Blues Series

Sept 17
Cool John, Whistlin' Britches, Macavine Hayes, Captain Luke at the Warehouse Blues Series

Sept 24
Skeeter Brandon at the Warehouse Blues Series

Oct 12 thru 17
Little Freddie King at Nancy Jazz and Pulsation Festival - Nancy, France
www.nancyjazzpulsations.com

Check out musicmaker.org for updated events listing

Music Maker News

We would like to thank everyone who attended

The 1st Annual Congressional Blues Festival will be held on Tuesday July 20, 2004. This fundraising event will support the Music Maker Relief Foundation, which was created ten years ago to make certain the Blues tradition would survive by supporting not only these artists' music, but the artists themselves.



In recognition of the 100 years of musical and cultural impact that the blues has had, Congress proclaimed 2003 "The Year of the Blues". The 1st Annual Congressional Blues Festival

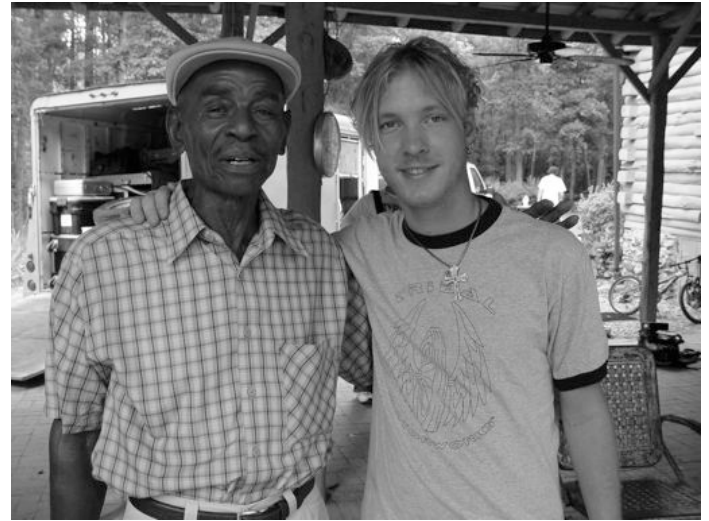
keeps this mission on the Hill alive.

This event is more than your typical "blues festival". We are creating an intimate event for key decision makers on Capitol Hill wherein the Music Maker mission can be promoted and advanced. The festival will certainly be an exhibition of incredible blues talent but will also serve as a public marriage between

Congress and a great American tradition. It is our goal to not only provide first class entertainment but also have Senators and Congressmen and their respective staffs directly involved.

The line up includes Cool John Ferguson, Little Sammy Davis, Levon Helm, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, and Mudcat.

Henry Byrd, Sanford, FL ©T. Duffy
Henry Byrd at the age of 91 is doing well, living by himself, and having a good time with his friend Scott Rigga playing the music he learned in the late 1920s. Henry is originally from a little town outside of Perry, GA. It is there where he learned to play the blues. In the 30s he hoboed throughout the country on the train. He met and played with a great many of the blues musicians of his day, folks such as Blind Lemon Jefferson, Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller and others. His music is wonderful, stemming straight from the source with no adornments.



John Dee Holeman and Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Hillsborough, NC © T. Duffy
John Dee is a real gentleman and his music is superb. It has always been, but it seems to just get better and better. We thank him for helping get Kenny Wayne interested in our mission. Kenny Wayne is a major label artist that enjoyed great success at an early age. At 26 he wants to give back to the culture from which he arose, the blues from the South. Kenny came by before a show in Charlotte, NC and recorded with John Dee Holeman, Cool John and appeared in our piece with "Foreign Correspondent." Of course we were thrilled that he chose to donate a very substantial portion of the profits of his upcoming blues CD/DVD to MMRF. B.B. King has joined in on the project as well as a slew of the greatest blues artists among us today.



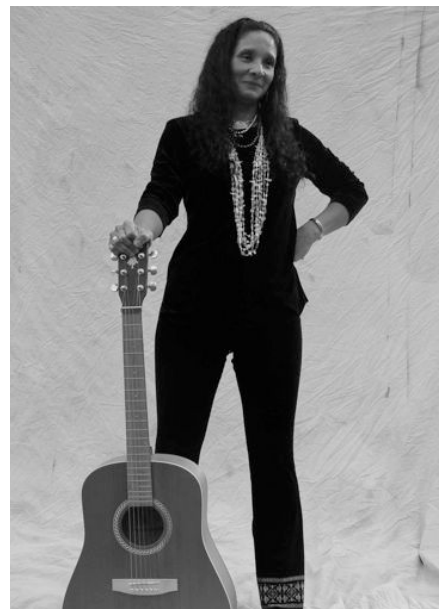
Etta Baker, Morganton, NC ©Lucy Duffy
This spring Etta received the highest state honor in the arts by the Governor of NC. Etta is 91 and has been suffering with heart disease but on our recent visit she gladly pronounced to us that she is fully recovered. Etta's guitar playing on her recordings issued in 1956 made a deeply profound influence on American music. Bob Dylan spent his 21st birthday with Etta and her fingerstyle influence is very apparent on his early recordings especially songs like "Don't Think Twice." We are just finishing up mastering the recording sessions she did with Taj Mahal and helping her issue her early recordings which she never gave consent to issue or has received on payment in the nearly 50 years these recordings have been in constant print.



Capt. Luke and Whistlin' Britches, Winston-Salem, NC © T. Duffy
These two are the finest connoisseurs of drink houses that I know. I showed up with the Australian film crew around 12, and we did our shoot, after we wrapped up Capt. Luke invited us to a new place he had found. We went to the outskirts of town and what a place indeed. There was a big garden out back, you could buy freshly made sous vide meat, and the finest corn liquor I have tasted in years. The people were nothing but hospitable. We played music, shot more film, and I am sure it made wonderful footage for "Foreign Correspondent."



David Butler, Sanford, FL © T. Duffy
We stopped by to visit David while in Sanford. He was more worried about when his motorcycle would be fixed as he needs to get around and had no transportation. However he picked up my guitar and graced us with a beautiful set of music. His style is absolutely unique. All of his songs are parables that speak to his community on what they will learn if they travel and what to watch out for.



Pura Fe, Hillsborough, NC © T. Duffy
Pura Fe is an activist and council member of the Tuscarora Indian Nation of North Carolina, the most Southern band of Iroquois peoples. Pura Fe explained to us the musical contributions made by Southeastern Indigenous people. "My Nation has been systematically disenfranchised and disregarded. Many people think we have nothing to do with the development of Southern culture. In fact Native and African people traded extensively before the invasion of the Western Hemisphere. Not only were we captured and shipped off to West Africa, we were bred together on slave plantations during colonization of our land. Also maroon colonies and the Underground Railroad ran through most of Indian occupied territory on old trade paths. African and Indian slaves were harbored, escorted and smuggled across the Canadian border through Indian country. This union gave birth to a rich new culture blending religion, dance, food, good looking people and the Blues! Many of these grandchildren became influential musicians. Charley Patton the first King of the Blues is Choctaw, Scrapper Blackwell is Cherokee, Guitar Gabriel, Jimi Hendrix, Don Cherry, Duke Ellington, Thelonus Monk, Taj Mahal, Lina Horne, the Neville Brothers, Little Richard, Tina Turner, Chaka Khan... There are so many blues and jazz pioneers that have expressed their Native ancestry through their work."

He tends the roots of American Music

By: Kim Campbell
Staff writer: Christian Science Monitor

New York – Until a few years ago, the world was unfamiliar with Cootie Stark. Blind for most of his life and living in a housing project in Greenville, S.C., he played music primarily on the streets, sharing the songs he learned from the bluesmen that came before him. He might have disappeared like they did if a young producer named Tim Duffy hadn't met him in 1995. It wasn't long before the 68-year-old had a new guitar and the first CD bearing his name.

To the artists Mr. Duffy works with, he is a man with solutions. Need to be warm? He'll buy a heating stove. Need to play? He'll find a guitar. He books tours and pays medical bills, arranges transportation and tombstones. Most of all, he makes sure that his ever-expanding roster of older musicians are able to carry on with an American musical tradition.

Out of a building next to his home in Hillsborough, N.C., Duffy and a tiny staff, including his wife and co-founder, Denise, run the Music Maker Relief Foundation, where they carry out their motto: "Keeping the bluest of the blues alive."

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the organization, which has channeled \$2.5 million through its programs and helped 108 artists over age 55. Along the way the group has collected fans in the recording industry such as Eric Clapton, Moby, B.B. King, and Bonnie Raitt. Several are on the group's advisory board, while others, such as Taj Mahal - who calls the blues an "aquifer" that nourishes modern music - are members of its board of directors.

Even with the attention, raising money and distributing CDs are among the biggest challenges for the nonprofit group, which helps musicians from West Virginia to Nevada. To Duffy, his work is about saving and documenting a vital part of US culture - and treating the people who make it like family. "These people have given so much to an industry that has created billions of dollars off their musical traditions," he says by phone. "Why can't we pay back something?"

Duffy's passion for helping these "living roots" of American music was ignited back in

1989, when he was a graduate student in folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was documenting the work of James "Guitar Slim" Stephens, who told him to look up another bluesman, Guitar Gabriel. Duffy then encountered one artist after another - all part of a tradition he had been told hardly existed anymore. "I realized there was this whole hidden world," he says.

Appalled by the choices many of the musicians had to make each month - between food or medicine, rent or the car - Duffy drove them to the grocery store, to pay bills, and to get to welfare lines, while trying to book them gigs, record their music, and swing record deals. It was a new model for maintaining the blues community, where only a few, like B.B. King, have made a living off their music.

"Tim has really worked individually with these people," says Taj Mahal, who has produced, recorded, and toured with Music Maker musicians. "Beyond just him seeing them as artists, he's seeing them as people and [has] sought to stabilize their lives so they can continue doing the great things that they're doing."

One recipient is guitarist Etta Baker. Now in her 90s, she's been playing since she was 3. "He is just wonderful," she says of Duffy, who has provided her with money and free CDs of her

music to sell to help pay for food and medical bills. "I don't know how I'd ever have [paid] these high doctor bills if it hadn't been for Tim," Ms. Baker says.

"Just sitting down talking to Tim, it showed me where I was losing a lot by just not trying,"



Tim and Denise, Hillsborough, NC

©A. Nolan

she says, of Duffy's encouraging her to keep recording CDs.

At first, some of the artists were skeptical. "For some reason, I didn't trust him," says Carl Rutherford, who lives in Caretta, Va., and specializes in mountain music. When Duffy showed up at his door with recording equipment a decade ago, Mr. Rutherford allowed Duffy to record his songs, but didn't fully cooperate. "I didn't sing the song all the way through, you know, I was hanging on to some of it."

Duffy says that over the years, artists were sometimes approached by people who wanted to record them, but never returned with a finished product. Today, Duffy has people calling from around the US for assistance. Those they help have an annual income of under \$18,000, and the average is about \$6,000 a year.

"He's helped me in so many different ways," says Rutherford, who is in his mid-70s. "He'll find out through the grapevine or wherever that I'm having trouble meeting the expenses of about \$635 worth of drugs a month... And he'll send me a check and help me with that."

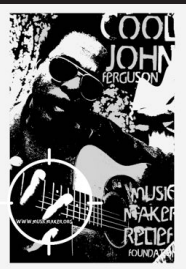
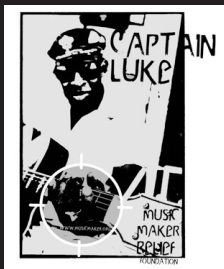
"He's just plum full of love and he spreads it all over the place," he adds.

Duffy's arranged for the musicians to perform overseas and in such venues as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. "We develop these artists," he explains. "We met Cootie when was 68 and now he's 77, he's a much better artist than he was at 68. They get better."

Music Maker sold about 10,000 albums through its website, musicmaker.org, and direct mail last year. The Duffy's are discussing a possible partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that would allow their operation to grow. Music Maker is a model that could benefit other forms of American music Native American, Hispanic - and is already expanding beyond the blues, say those tracking it.

"[These genres] don't sell a lot of records. But they're very significant. They reflect working-class American values, the struggles of men and women to make a living, and they voice that world within their music," says William Ferris of the Center for the Study of the American South at UNC. "It's potentially a model that could extend in a very powerful way throughout our nation."

add \$5 to your tax deductible donation



you will receive Captain Luke, Cool John or Cootie Stark Shirt.
You pick out the size and we'll pick out the artist!

and get a free t-shirt today!

see order form for more information

see page 6 for order form



Tim Duffy, Chris Startwich and Pat Sky © Lucy Duffy

We ran into founder Chris Stratwich and folk legend Pat Sky at the Mt. Airy Fiddler's convention. We all had an impromptu dinner party at this wonderful yearly festival.



Jerry "Boogie" McCain
©T. Duffy

Blues legend Jerry "Boogie" McCain will be inducted into the Birmingham Collectors Hall of fame August 21st. What a great honor! Check out www.boogiemccains.com to learn more about the Boogie McCain Music Hall!

ALL CDS \$19

Little Pink Anderson
Carolina Bluesman
 MAMCD 29
 Carolina Bluesman showcases a masterful country blues player displaying some exceptional guitar chops and soulful vocals. Little Pink evokes the relaxed charm of his father tacking songs he obviously played with the old man.

Etta Baker
Railroad Bill
 MAMCD 26
 "One of the signature chords of my guitar vocabulary comes from her version of Railroad Bill. Enjoy this beautiful album of guitar instrumentals." -Taj Mahal

Essie Mae Brooks
Rain in Your Life
 MAMCD 15
 Essie Mae raises her voice and expresses her faith in her original collection of gospel songs. Cool John Ferguson accompanies her on most of the album with his light and masterful improvisations on guitar and piano.

Cora Mae Bryant
Born with the Blues
 MAMCD 22
 Cora Mae Bryant is the daughter of Georgia guitar legend Curly Weaver. The combination of her father's and her own songs, accompanied by expert Georgia blues guitarist Joshua Jacobson, make this a very entertaining set.

Cora Mae Bryant
Born in Newton County
 MAMCD 39
 "Born in Newton County" is a stunning record featuring exceptional guitar playing that owes a strong debt to her father but also to his frequent partner Blind Willie McEll.

Cool John Ferguson
MMCD 18
 Here is Cool John Ferguson, a previously uncelebrated musician, laying down tracks that led Grammy winner Taj Mahal to proclaim him one of

the world's finest guitarists.

Cool John Ferguson
Guitar Heaven
 MAMCD 27
 Brand new release. Taj Mahal tells, "He's up there with Hendrix, Wes Montgomery, Django Reinhardt, people like that, he's an incredible player!"

Cool John Ferguson
Cool Yule
 MAMCD 29
 John Ferguson's incredibly innovative arrangements make this album of Christmas instrumentals so wonderful you will play this disc all year long!

Mr. Frank Edwards
Chicken Raid
 MAMCD 27
 A career that spanned nine decades, Edwards saw blues music evolve. This CD captures his last recording session the day of his death. That day he played the strongest of his career.

Preston Fulp
Sawmill Worker
 MAMCD 20
 Preston Fulp, born in 1915, was a sawmill worker, a tobacco sharecropper, moonshiner, and blues and old-time guitarist. He made these recordings at the age of 78. Preston weaves stories of his life through both secular and sacred songs.

Lee Gates and the Alabama Cotton Kings
MMCD 44
 One must rejoice in the "happening" of this CD, especially the glorious tone of Lee's guitar. After performing for 52 years I have a feeling that Lee is just beginning his recording career.

Guitar Gabriel
Volume One
 MAMCD 04
 "Guitar Gabriel ventures well beyond drink houses into his own private Birdland, an improvisational crossroads where the starkly pre-mod-

ern meets the startlingly postmodern and the Devil's "got his hair tied up in a ponytail" to keep all the drunks confused." -Cree McCre

Guitar Gabriel
Deep in the South
 MAMCD 02
 Guitar Gabriel boogies and cries heart-felt country blues in this set. He knew Blind Boy Fuller in his youth, traveled with medicine shows.

Guitar Gabriel
Toot Blues
 MAMCD 01
 "This CD is not for the faint of heart. It is raw, unembellished, and drenched with feeling-like to elicit whoops, hollers, and spontaneous banging on whatever furniture is handy." -David Nelson

Big Boy Henry
Beautiful Blues
 MAMCD 27
 He is one of the sweetest, most gentle men ever to sing the blues. A patriarch of the Carolina Blues, Big Boy has recorded a collection of timeless songs, respectfully backed by a group of friends.

George Higgs
Tarboro Blues
 MAMCD 19
 Acoustic Piedmont blues by George Higgs, a North Carolinian, who was inspired to take up the harmonica as a child after hearing Deford Bailey on the radio and seeing Peg Leg Sam at medicine shows and then learned to play guitar as a teenager. Voted the best blues album of 2001 by Living Blues.

Algia Mae Hinton
Honey Babe
 MAMCD 13
 "Algia Mae is a great example of what is called in and throughout the African Diaspora, "Original Joe." This is an innovative character that survives and creates anew under all circumstances. Algia Mae Hinton is someone not to be missed!" -Taj Mahal

John Dee Holman
Bull Durham Blues
 MAMCD 07
 "John Dee Holman is a wonderful carrier of the southeast blues tradition." -Taj Mahal

Clyde Langford
High Steppin' Momma
 MAMCD 05 NEW RELEASE
 Everyone needs an dose of his East Texas Blue!

Capt. Luke & Cool John
Outlaw Lounge Music
 MAMCD 12
 Here is Captain Luke, singing like a disenfranchised Dean Martin, ruminating low and wise enough to make Barry White sound pre-adolescent. Features a beautiful 20 pg. Booklet.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain
This Stuff Just Kills Pie
 MAMCD 10
 No one plays a harp or sings the blues quite like Jerry "Boogie" McCain. Backed by a stellar rhythm section, Jerry's accompanied by a lineup of guest musicians including Johnnie Johnson, Anson Funderburgh and Jimmie Vaughan.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain
Unplugged
 MAMCD 21
 Jerry "Boogie" McCain is the greatest post war harp player alive today. This is Jerry's one and only acoustic album. Jerry shines with his brilliant song writing in this intimate set of down home blues.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain
My Name is Boogie
 MAMCD 24
 McCain is the last true master of the amplified blues harp, a good singer, and a crackerjack songwriter.

Dave McGrew
Fruit Tramp Ballads of the Great Northwest
 MAMCD 31
 This album tells the stories of the fruit tramps. Day jobs during the fruit harvesting season. A beautiful yet uneasy folk album.

Mudcat
Kicker's Chicken
 MAMCD 40
 Guaranteed to make you want to get up and dance!

Neal Pattman
Prison Blues
 MAMCD 14
 Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Kowitz
 Neal Pattman is a country blues harp player born in the same county of Sonny Terry. He shines in a sound and style his daddy taught him as a child in the country outside Athens, Georgia.

Carl Rutherford
Turn Off the Fear
 MAMCD 17
 Here is granddaddy Carl Rutherford's devastating take on "The Old Rugged Cross" and other jewels that showcase his unique blend of Buck Owens-styled twang, old time gospel numbers and harrowing mining songs making him a true American original.

Slewfoot and the Angels
Grasshopper Pie
 MAMCD 35
 Slewfoot's debut release for MM showcases his incredibly diverse and original song writing. With vocal partner Cary B, "Grasshopper Pie" features a stellar array of New Orleans' finest. New Orleans second-line, the blues and even Hawaiian slack-key combine to bring a fresh new flavor to the Music Maker lineup.

Sol
Volume One
 MAMCD 25
 While many young, white musicians attempt to replicate the blues masters' art, Sol steers clear of imitation in favor of excavation and transport. Sounds carry beyond genre, beyond origin and often beyond the grave. Ancient truths of the blues arrive in some new place, through some new voice, through some kid who is sol.

Cootie Stark
Sugar Man
 MAMCD 08
 Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Kowitz
 Sugar Man doesn't merely proclaim "Cootie Stark was here." It is evidence that Stark was, and is, an idiosyncratic, tremendously talented musician. This is a sonic monument, and a mirror

that immediately blurs the textbook pages dictated to Piedmont Blues. It's a big deal.

Cootie Stark
Raw Sugar
 MAMCD 38
 Cootie is one of the last great bluesmen from the Piedmont tradition. Taj Mahal joins Cootie on harmonica, piano, bass, harp, banjo and guitar. 72-minutes of the best blues and old-time music. Tremendous recording, a masterpiece, buy this CD!

Eddie Tigner
Route 66
 MAMCD 05
 Eddie Tigner performed as an Ink Spot for over 30 years. In this album Eddie and his band exuberantly nail a set of timeless standards.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins
Back in Business
 MAMCD 09
 Here is Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, previously heard from as one of Dr. Feelgood's interests, decreasing herself "Back in Business." This is a highly charged record by this powerful performer.

Lightnin' Wells
Righted but Right
 MAMCD 26
 Lightnin' Wells has been performing his Piedmont-tinged variety of American roots music for 35 years. His vibrant, good-natured vocals and melody-rich guitar playing recall the sounds of 1930's and '40's string bands and barrelhouse bluesmen. Producer Tim Duffy, Cool John Ferguson and Taj Mahal and Ardie Dean sit in on a few tracks.

Compilations

A Living Past
 MAMCD 03
 This was the first album in the Music Maker series and has been heralded as a classic recording by reviewers throughout the world. This album is a superb sampler of the traditional blues scene in North Carolina.

Blues Came to Georgia
 MAMCD 23
 Music Maker's Tim Duffy has assembled this collection of 15 songs to illustrate the continuing vitality of grassroots blues in Georgia at the turn of the century.

Came So Far
 MAMCD 05
 This CD presents eighteen selections by twelve astonishing blues and gospel artists. This album was made in the field, in old trailers, kitchens, living rooms and nursing homes.

Expressin' the Blues
 MAMCD 11
 This collection features 21 songs by 21 of the most talented and unsung heroes of the blues. Here is a collection of some of the most emotional, gut-level music available on disc, the feelings intensified by the immediacy of the recordings.

Sisters of the South
 MAMCD 32
 The music covers a wide spectrum, from gospel and country blues in the Piedmont style, to the modern blues of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins. Original recordings. Women, too, do have the blues...

Songs from the Roots of America II
 MAMCD 28
 A companion to the book "Music Makers: Portraits & Songs from the Roots of America" this CD presents 21 songs by 21 artists, the majority of which are otherwise unreleased recordings.

Winston Blues Revival
 MAMCD 40
 This is a compilation including Taj Mahal, Cootie Stark, Neal Pattman, Mudcat, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins and Willa Mae Buckner from their ground-breaking Winston Sponsored Blues Campaign. These discs were given out on tour. Collectors item, limited in stock.

Stay Cool in a Music Maker Tee!

CD Collection

MM100...\$30
 Limited Offer! Collectors Items! Mint Condition! Limited Stock. 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.

Add \$5 to your donation get a MM Summer T-shirt. Please note size we will pick what shirt.

Item Code	Item Name and Size	Quantity	Total
Special Offer MM T-shirt	Circle Size: Small Medium Large XLarge	add \$5 for t-shirt <input type="checkbox"/>	\$5
Total			

International orders Please add \$7 for shipping and handling

Payment to:
Music Maker Relief Foundation

Check enclosed
 MasterCard Visa AmEx

AMEX/MC/VISA # _____ Expiration: ____/____/____

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!

Billing Address:

Name _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 E mail: _____
 Phone: _____

Shipping Address Same as above

Me Gift Recipient Newsletter only

Items: All List Items _____

Name _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 E mail: _____
 Gift Message _____



Ask Amy

Email your questions for MM Artists to amy@musicmaker.org!

We have so many CDs out, and folks are always clammering for more. One long-time supporter recently asked:

I have been wondering why doesn't Macavine Hayes have a CD out on Music Maker?
—John Creech, Winston-Salem, NC

I asked Tim about this and he answered: I set out to make a Macavine album in 1991. We did some incredible sessions with Michael Parrish on the piano, while we were in Pinnacle we recorded with Cool John, Taj Mahal did some sessions with him on bass and now Levon Helm calls up and asks about Macavine, wanting to schedule a session with him. Yeah it is truly ridiculous that we do not have a CD out on Mac. He has wanted one for years. It seems that projects keep coming up, and folks want to get projects out, we do the best we can, but in the end some of our most humble quiet artists are left waiting. I have been listening to these sessions, and I agree with the great Bill Barth who after listening to Mac, commented, "After hearing his version of 'Goodbye Johnny B. Goode,' I truly won-



Macavine Hayes, Durham, NC

©Tim Duffy

dered if this was the source of Chuck Berry's music, is this the tradition he drew from." Well, I will do my best to get Macavine Hayes his own CD out.

Dear Amy,
I really enjoyed Big Boy Henry's cd, "Beaufort Blues" that you put out a couple of years ago. I haven't heard much from Big Boy lately - how's he doing and what's he been up to?
—Dante Pendergrass from Greensboro, NC

A We love Big Boy thanks for asking. Mark Coltrain was in the office and had never spoke to Big Boy and he jumped at the chance to write something on him.

Big Boy Henry Interview, June 11, 2004

I had the privilege of conversing with the humble spirit of Big Boy on the telephone recently. He was watching a little TV, lounging around on a humid Friday afternoon in middle June. "I ain't been up to too much; taking it easy, you know. Things are going pretty good - I can't grumble." We also discussed his wonderful music and plans for the future.

I asked Big Boy if, in one of my personal favorites of his impressive repertoire, "Mr. Ball's Warehouse" had actually burned down. He told me it hadn't. He wrote that song when he lived in New Bern, NC in imaginative speculation of a tobacco warehouse he frequently saw there. In fact, that was one of a great many songs he wrote and played in his youth and in his fortunate rediscovery back in the 1980s by the legendary Ransome

Hobbes. Big Boy said he preferred his own material to other musicians' compositions and told that on the rare occasion he was to play another bluesman's song, he would make the song his, in a sense, by giving it his own unique spin. Big Boy said he was surprised at the enthusiasm for "Mr. Ball's Warehouse" - it's a song he wrote on a whim that he never expected to be so enjoyed by other folks.

In fact, his whole "Beaufort Blues" album is a joy to behold. We should be thankful he was able to record this brilliant piece of work before arthritis and diabetes stopped him from making his wonderful style of Carolina Blues. But, in his mid-eighties, Big Boy's not done yet - he still has a couple of aces up his sleeve. He has a number of unused recordings he made of himself in a small studio he had in his old house from about 10 to 15 years ago. There are plans for Tim to remaster and make an album out of these recordings in the not so distant future, which is certainly music to this fans ears.

But wait...in inspiration from his father, Luther Henry, Big Boy's son who was featured on Beaufort Blues singing "Tell Me What to Do," has plans to record an album himself with that beautifully earthy voice passed from father to son.

So, some interesting and good news indeed coming out of Beaufort, NC. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information to come.

WAREHOUSE BLUES SERIES, SUMMER 2004

Whoever said the summertime blues is a bad thing? Come on down to West Morgan street in Durham, NC and chill out with some cool blues on Friday evenings all summer long - you never know who might show up...The Warehouse Blues Series is graciously sponsored by the City of Durham.

10 FREE Fridays of after hours blues from Music Maker artists.

The WAREHOUSE BLUES SERIES (will carry on every other Friday through the summer) at THE WEST VILLAGE COURTYARD 604 West Morgan Street (near Main) in DURHAM

FREE PARKING
FREE ADMISSION
BECAUSE IT'S SPONSORED BY THE DURHAM HERALD and the CITY OF DURHAM.

UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHTS FEATURE:

June 4: **Lightnin' Wells and George Higgs**

June 18: **Lee Gates (Ardie Dean)**

July 2: **Drink Small**

July 16: **John Dee Holeman**

July 30: **Cool John Ferguson**

Aug 13: **Slewfoot and Cary B.**

Aug 27th: **Abe Reid**

Sept 17: **Cool John, Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes, Whistlin' Britches, and the Steel House Bottom Band**

Sept 24: **Skeeter Brandon**



Taj Mahal & FISHING BLUES TOURNAMENT

Fishin' Blues 2005
February 6th-12th
Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica

The Music Maker Relief Foundation and Taj Mahal invite you to join us February 6th-12th, 2005 in Costa Rica for the 3rd Annual Fishin' Blues Tournament. This popular event guarantees world class angling, gorgeous beaches, new friends and music, music, music. Ask Jimmy Herring of The Dead, last year he caught (and released) a 500lb. Black Marlin. His best friend, Derek Trucks of the Allman Brothers, assisted him in this tremendous effort. Derek & Jimmy, along with Taj and Mudcat helped this small island of 350 to an amazing evening of music on the pristine, black sand beaches of Playa Zancudo on the southern Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Our musical alumni includes Dickey Betts, Cootie Stark, Lightnin' Wells and Cool John Ferguson. Taj and Derek have already saved the dates on their calendar for 2005 and we promise some great other talent as well.

This winter we will have 32 fishermen at Roy's Zancudo Lodge. Boats and all fishing equipment are provided. The captains are first rate and very experienced. We fish for Marlin, Sailfish, Dorado, Tuna, and more. All you need to bring is your shorts, sneakers, a hat and some sunscreen. Roy's Lodge is comfortable and just big enough for our group. Rooms are double occupancy and do have air-conditioning. The beautiful Pacific is visible from everywhere, including the pool and open air bar and dining area. All transportation, meals and drinks are included. We fish and tour during the day. Evenings we dine and enjoy the non-stop music. Touring options abound with tropical rain-forest, mountains, rivers and beaches to explore by boat, horseback, hike or drive.

Only the music and camaraderie of our Tournament surpasses the natural beauty of Zancudo! Our group is large enough that everyone will make new friends and small enough that you will keep them for life.

This trip is the ultimate cure for your wintertime blues and helps to keep the bluest of the blues alive! What will make you feel even better is that half the fee is tax-deductible! Do reserve your spot early, as we are limited to 32 fishermen (we sell out every year).
February 6th 2005 – Travel to Zancudo
February 7th – Fishin'
February 8th – Fishin'
February 9th – Fishin' and Awards dinner
February 10th – Concert (optional touring, beach party or more Fishin')
February 11th – Rest & Relaxation (optional touring)
February 12th – Depart for home
Reserve by August 1st and save \$500! The



Jimmy Herring, Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica

©M. Koether

entrance fee for this tourney will be \$6,250 (\$3,000 tax deductible). This fee includes roundtrip airfare from Atlanta or Miami, all transfers, room (double occupancy), fishing fees, meals and drinks. If you make your full payment on or before August 1st, you receive a \$500 discount off your fee and come for just \$5,750 (\$2,500 tax deductible). There will be a few spaces available for non-fishing companions, the cost will be \$5,000 (\$2,500 tax-deductible). Book prior to Aug 1st for \$4,500.

We would like to thank all of the sponsors for the **FIRST ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BLUES FESTIVAL!** Please go to bluesonthehill.org to find out more!

