

vol. 24

2018 Annual Report

MUSIC MAKER **RAG**

RELIEF FOUNDATION



When the Music Maker Relief Foundation was established 24 years ago, it was founded to offer a new model of engagement for working with blues and folk musicians. It is from our unique position at the crossroads of the arts and humanitarian enterprise that Music Maker derives its ability to empower and sustain blues and folk musicians. We are committed to providing our partner artists with the professional development crucial to building their careers and showcasing their music to new generations, and we offer emergency relief and sustenance grants to partner artists in their times of need.

Our organization's mission is to sustain traditional music by tangibly supporting the artists. Our method of achieving this goal is by partnering with artists to empower their careers through booking performances, recording albums, and promoting these tangible ends in our public communications and outreach. **Over the past 4 years, our artists bookings have increased 250%.** Not only does this empower our partner artists' careers, putting more earned income in their pockets, but their live performances keep the blues and folk traditions alive and strong. In the past year alone, our performances reached hundreds of thousands of people across the U.S. and Europe.

As Music Maker continues to grow, you may ask yourself why the artists still need help and why your support is still needed. While our community of partner artists chase their dreams, many still live below the poverty line. Longstanding institutional barriers prevent many elderly people, specifically people of color, from accessing the



The Music Maker Blues Revue on tour, 2017 © A. Greenhood

Our Mission: Helping Musicians Make It

MUSIC MAKER STAFF

Timothy Duffy, Executive Director
Denise Duffy, Managing Director
Mollie O'Reilly, Advancement Coordinator
Aaron Greenhood, Programs Manager
Brittany Anderson, Social Worker
Jed Finley, Program Associate
Karen Mack, Accounting Coordinator
Cornelius Lewis, Community Coordinator

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Music Maker social worker Brittany Anderson speaks with Freeman Vines, Fountain, NC 2018 © T. Duffy

resources needed to maximize their quality of life. If you're not a professional, trained to understand and analyze local, state, and federal institutions, navigating national and local resources can be convoluted and overwhelming.

Over our 24 years of work, we've seen just how forcefully a natural disaster can devastate a musician's life. Whether by hurricane, tornado, or flood, something that is totally beyond an artists' control can appear out of thin air and destroy their home, car, musical gear, and ultimately, their whole livelihood. In the face of systemic poverty and natural disaster, we have doubled down on our mission to empower artists and musicians. In May of 2018 we brought social worker Brittany Anderson onto our team to bring an expert eye and trained hand to our Musician Sustenance program. Her education and professional background were put to use right away delivering critical aid to our partner artists.

When Music Maker partner artist and drummer Chuck Cotton's home in Greensboro, NC was destroyed by trees uprooted by a 135mph EF-2 tornado, Brittany jumped into action organizing emergency relief funds for Chuck. With her vast experience as a social worker, she was able to streamline the

MUSIC MAKER ADVISORY BOARD

Bonnie Raitt	Col. Bruce Hampton
Ardie Dean	Dan Auerbach
Jackson Browne	Taj Mahal
Dickey Betts	Tift Merritt
Jimmy Herring	Tom Rankin
Derek Trucks	Sue Foley
Susan Tedeschi	Pura Fé
BB. King	Pete Townshend
Levon Helm	Elvin Bishop

MUSIC MAKER PROGRAMS

Sustenance

Support for artists in crisis and poverty relief

Performance

Booking and tour support that deliver live performance to 150,000 people each year in US and abroad

Education

Exhibits and programs that engage Americans with our cultural heritage

Next Generation

Encourages and mentors young artists and documentarians

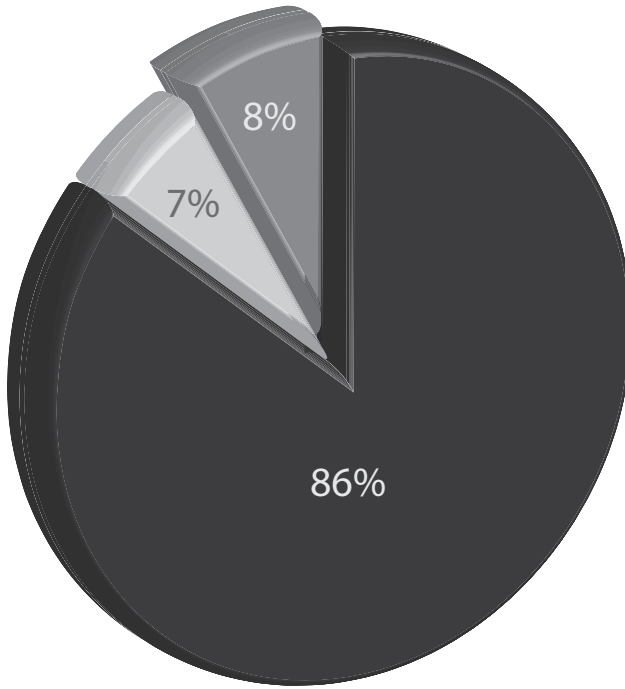


Eddie Tigner, Atlanta, GA 2017 © A. Greenhood

process of connecting Chuck with other organizations to further assist him through these trying times. Brittany has also been instrumental in bringing healthy and accessible food options to partner artists living in food deserts, areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food.

We at Music Maker understand that the success of our mission and method depends on engaging in long-term relationships with musicians which are founded in mutual respect and reciprocity. Despite long-standing changes to the landscape of the music industry, Music Maker's commitment to empowering and sustaining musicians is unwavering. Blues, folk, and other traditional music is integral to supporting our nation's social fabric. Our shared cultural heritage bind us together. Through Music Maker's performances and educational outreach, these traditions are being shared with new and younger audiences, ensuring that the music will play on. As Music Maker approaches its 25th anniversary, our organization has entered into a new stage of its life, a maturity that comes with experience, expertise, and expansion. This growth has taken our organization to new breadths and new depths. In the beginning, we were joining an existing community of artists, but today, we have cultivated a community of our own. We are eternally grateful to all of the artists, supporters, and friends who have made this journey possible.

★ Financial Report



- Programs
└ \$903,211
- Management
└ \$70,370
- Fundraising
└ \$79,719

\$1,053,300

2017/18 TOTAL BUDGET

Audited financial statements available upon request

11,840
Musician Grants

6,987
Performances

2,428
Songs released

435
Partner Artists

26
countries toured

24
years

4
Programs

1
Mission



★ Music Maker Exhibitions



We Are the Music Makers! Created with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, this collection chronicles MM's 25 years of partnering with blues and folk artists through photographs and stories, immersing visitors in the musical heritage of the South.

Downing Gross Cultural Arts Center, VA
Carnegie Visual Arts Center, AL
Franklin Park Arts Center, VA
Delta Cultural Arts Center, AK

September 2018 - December 2018
October 2018 - November 2018
December 2018 - February 2019
October 2019 - January 2020

Our Living Past: A Platinum Portrait of Music Maker: For 35 years, photographer Timothy Duffy has immortalized Southern musical heroes and the world in which they live. These images were made with wet-plate collodion photography and printed with the platinum/palladium process.

Gregg Museum of Art and Design, NC
Portsmouth Arts and Cultural Center, VA
Clay Center for the Arts, WV

May 2018 - November 2018
March 2019 - June 2019
June 2019 - August 2019



Listen. Watch. Learn. Give.

Join our mailing list for all the latest news + exclusive content!



Sign up at:

musicmaker.org/blog

Get the latest on:

- artist news
- album releases
- tour dates

Check out all our releases on bandcamp!



musicmaker.bandcamp.com



[@musicmakerrelief](https://www.instagram.com/musicmakerrelief)



[@musicmakerblues](https://twitter.com/musicmakerblues)



soundcloud.com/musicmakerrelief



youtube.com/musicmakerrelieffoundation



facebook.com/musicmakerrelieffoundation



Check out our blog @ musicmaker.org/blog

★ Program Notes

Brittany Anderson, Music Maker's social worker has been working closely with legendary drummer Sam Lay, helping him sort out his life since his wife passed in November, securing healthy food delivery, in home support and coordinating local resources to ensure his long term health.

2017 © J. Anderson



Natural disasters have a disproportionate impact on our artists who live on fixed or very low incomes. This year, Hurricane Harvey caused damage to Larry Shores home, unusually heavy snowmelt flooded Dave McGrew's house with a foot of water and Chuck Cotton (left) lost his home to a rare tornado. Music Maker has helped with grants and linking artists with additional resources.

2018 © A. Greenhood



Following their first international performance, The Glorifying Vines returned home to a media blitz! They were featured on local PBS affiliate's Muse TV, on WRAL's Tarheel Traveler, on Newsobserver.com, and the Durham Herald Sun. A generous donor helped recarpet their home church in Farmville, NC.

2018 © T. Duffy





Frank "Sugar Chile" Robinson got a new bed, bedding, and a keyboard and received lots of well wishes and support after Music Maker discovered that he was living in an unfurnished apartment since his house burnt down 5 years ago. Music Maker continues to work with him to stabilize his living situation and connect him to a supportive music community in Detroit. 2017 © L. King

Patrick Sky, who, among other accomplishments introduced the Irish uilleann pipes to a new generation of Americans, received a reliable car from Music Maker, allowing him make his doctor's appointments as he works to manage his recently diagnosed Parkinson's disease. 2018 © C. Lewis



The Como Mamas won the Academie Du Jazz Soul Prix for 2018, the highest honor for musical releases in France. 2018 © T. Duffy

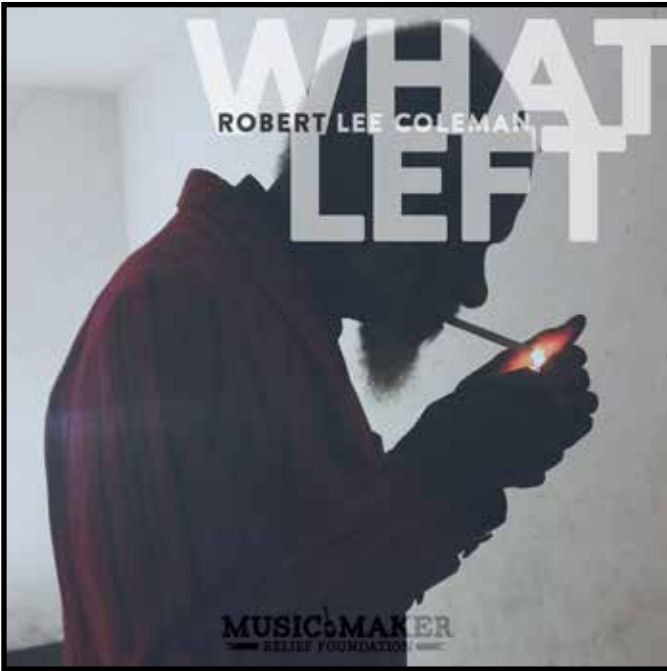
★ Artist Notes



Pat "Mother Blues" Cohen, Shakori Hills, NC 2017 © A. Greenhood

Sam Lay, Sugar Chile Robinson, Chuck Cotton, Little Willie Farmer and Theotis Taylor all became partner artists this year ★ The Glorifying Vines renovated their church in Farmville, NC ★ The town of Fitzgerald, GA declared March 17th Theotis Taylor Day ★ Robert Finley and Alabama Slim both gave memorable performances at Telluride Blues and Brews ★ Sam Frazier, Jr. was inducted into the Alabama Blues Hall of Fame ★ Ardie Dean was inducted into both the Iowa and Alabama Blues Halls of Fame ★ Cary Morin's recent release *Cradle To The Grave* won Best Blues Album at the Indigenous Music Awards ★ The Bullpen presented 104 shows including performances by Big Ron Hunter, Pee Wee Hayes, Eddie Tigner, Albert White, Cool John Ferguson, Pat "Mother Blues" Cohen, Lil Joe, Bubba Norwood, Chuck Cotton, John Dee Holeman, Little Willie Farmer, The Glorifying Vines, Dom Flemons, Thomas Rhyant, Ernie Vincent, Guitar Lightnin' Lee, Alabama Slim, Abe Reid, Dom Flemons, Sol Roots and the Nee Ningy Band among others ★ Robert Finley released a record with Dan Auerbach, *Goin' Platinum*, to high marks from reviewers ★ Little Willie Farmer is working on his debut US record release with Big Legal Mess Records ★ Angelia Taylor, of the Como Mamas, was struck in the breast by a bullet during a drive by shooting while laying in bed ★ Little Freddie King was injured in a bicycle accident ★ Algia Mae Hinton passed away at 88 ★ Lee Gates had emergency surgery to relieve pressure on his brain caused by internal bleeding. He has been recovering in rehab and seeking more permanent housing ★ Longtime MM supporter and European blues promoter Norman Hewitt passed away ★ Guitar Lightnin' Lee's recovery from lung cancer continues, meanwhile Music Maker helped him repair the floors, plumbing and upfit his bathroom in his home in New Orleans ★

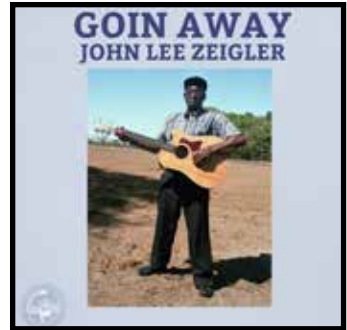
2018 Releases★



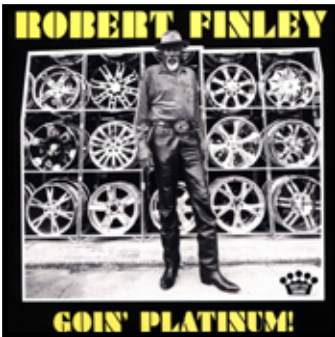
Robert Lee Coleman, *What Left*



Homesick James, *King Dracula*



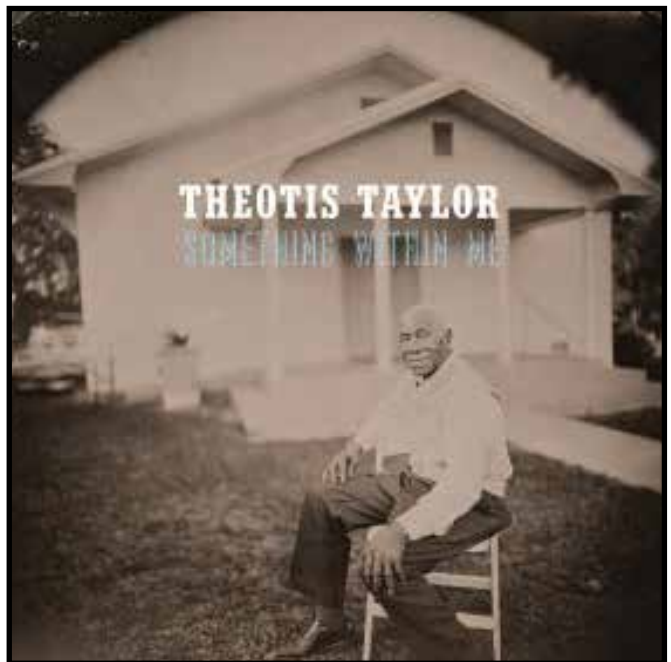
John Lee Zeigler, *Goin' Away*



Robert Finley *Goin' Platinum!*
(Easy Eye Sound)



Major Handy, *Zydeco*



Theotis Taylor *Something Within Me* (Big Legal Mess)

Purchase albums at musicmaker.org

★ Celebrate 25 Years With Us

2019 marks Music Maker Relief Foundation's 25th anniversary! In celebration of this milestone, Music Maker, along with our partners, has planned a year's worth of releases, museum exhibits and live performances! Join us in celebrating!



Timothy Duffy: Blue Muse
April 25 - July 28, 2019
New Orleans Museum of Art
New Orleans, LA



Duke Performances Presents A Music Maker Tribute To Taj Mahal
October 3 & 4, 2019
Carolina Theater
Durham, NC

**Stay tuned for more!
Visit Musicmaker.org
and join our mailing
list to be the first to
know!**



5th Annual Freight Train Blues Concert Series
Mid-May to Mid-June, 2019
Carrboro, NC



Algia Mae Hinton, Middlesex, NC © Mark Austin

*Cook cornbread for your husband,
biscuits for your outside man.
If you don't love me baby
I'll go home by myself.*

- Algia Mae Hinton (1929 - 2018)

★ We Love Blues! Do you?

I Love Blues Cotton Tee



Show the world that YOU love blues music with our exclusive *I Love Blues* gear! When you donate to Music Maker you get your choice between an *I Love Blues* sticker, hat, or t-shirt. Music Maker's *I Love Blues* hat and t-shirt are ultra-comfortable and come in all sizes. Slap the *I Love Blues* sticker on the back of your ride and be sure everyone knows that you support Music Maker's mission of helping America's most important artists!

I Love Blues T-Shirt (s,m,l,xl,xxl)

Features: 60% cotton/40% polyester

-
- Donate \$5 and receive an *I Love Blues* Sticker!
 - Donate \$30 and receive a t-shirt or hat + sticker!
 - Donate \$75 and receive the total package: a t-shirt, hat and sticker!
-

I Love Blues Deluxe Baseball Cap



Features: 65% cotton/35% poly

- Denim herringbone fabric
- Unstructured low profile 6 panel construction
- Pre-curved visor
- Hook and loop closure
- One size fits all!

Give Today at musicmaker.org!

Your support ensures musicians' voices are heard, helps them live in comfort, and documents their art for future generations.

Join The Circle!

Listener's Circle members receive exclusive compilations featuring unreleased tracks, previews of upcoming albums, and interesting musical material from the Music Maker stacks. Six times a year, these limited-edition compilations arrive with liner notes from Tim Duffy. These compilations are to members only!



MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

Monthly: Just \$30 per month!
Your subscription is ongoing, so you won't have to renew.

One-time gift: Yearly membership through a discounted one-time gift of \$300 (\$60 savings).

Place your order and join today at musicmaker.org!

Whole Nine Yards Goes Digital!



Over the past 20 years Music Maker has accumulated an incredible collection of music from amazing artists from all over the South. Our new version of "The Whole Nine Yards" contains a digital collection of all 170 Music Maker releases consisting of 2,109 songs as well as some unreleased gems.

This beautiful package comes with a customized walnut USB drive, box, 5 greeting cards and a hard copy of the *We Are The Music Makers!* book.

The Digital Whole Nine Yards - \$600

Please donate at musicmaker.org!

Or, mail a check to:

Music Maker Relief Foundation
PO Box 1358
Hillsborough, NC 27278

★ Thanks for your support

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