

BECOME A MEMBER
and HELP keep the
BLUEST of the BLUES alive!

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Music Maker Relief Foundation helps the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern music gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. We present these musical traditions to the world so American culture will flourish and be preserved for future generations.

Music Maker Staff: Timothy Duffy, Executive Director; Denise Duffy, Administrative Director; Amy Weaver, Programs Coordinator; Geraldine Degiron, Development Assistant

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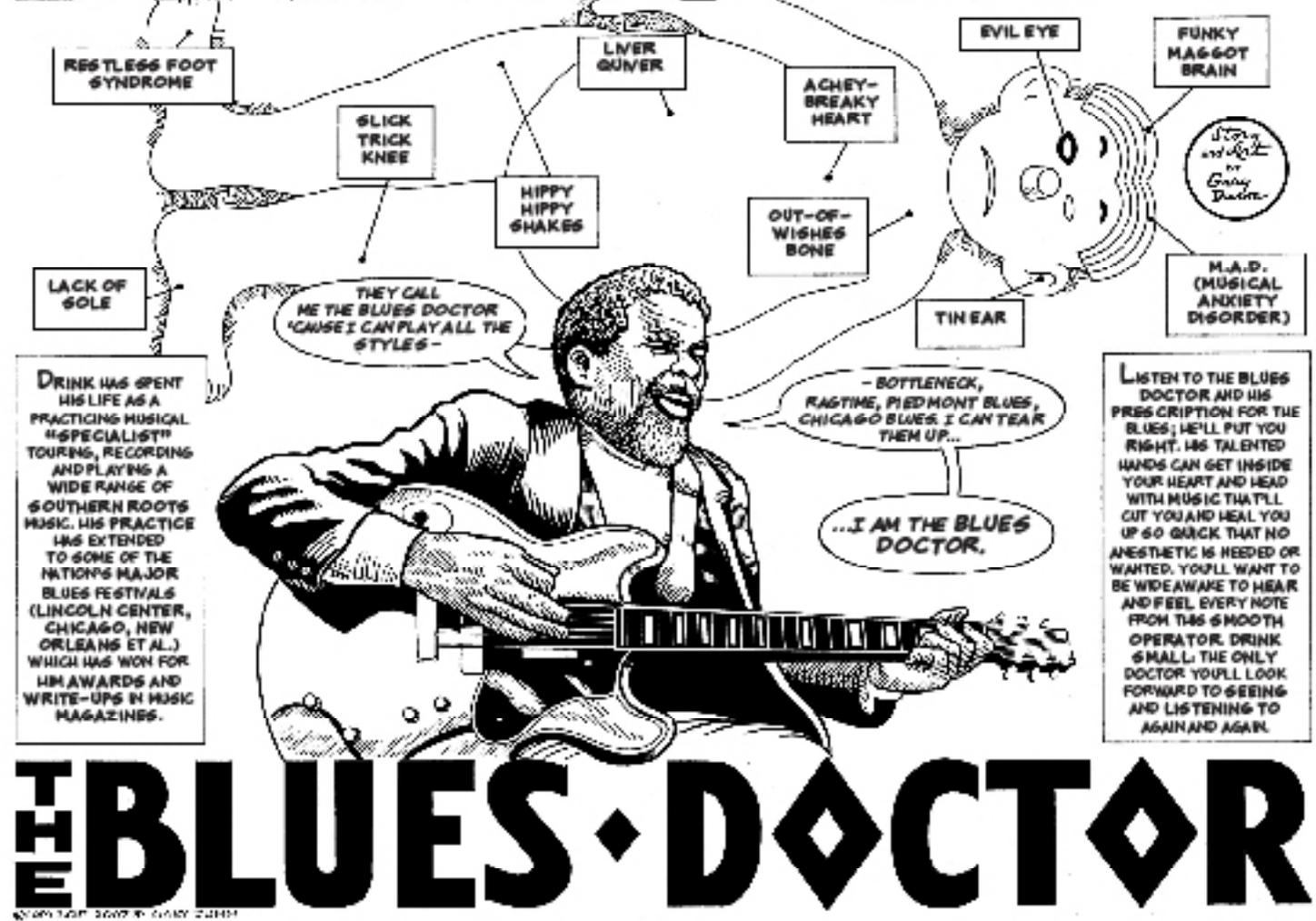
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Music Maker Programs
Musician Sustenance - grants to meet basic life needs and emergency relief.
Musical Development - grants and services for recipient artist professional development and career advancement.
Cultural Access - supports the preservation and proliferation of American musical traditions.
New Orleans Musician's Fund - assistance to musicians affected by Hurricane Katrina.

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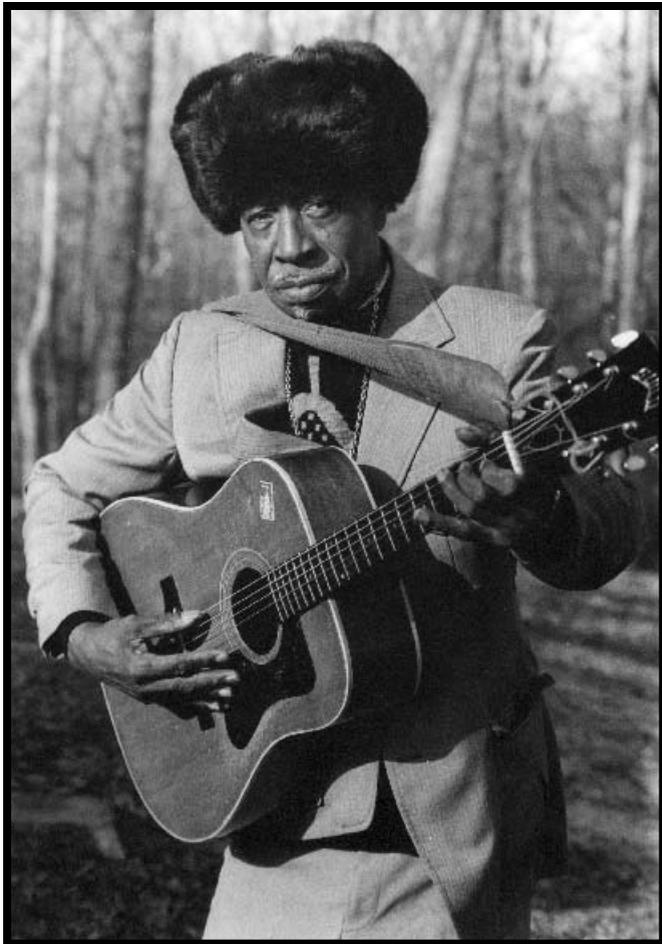
Spring 2007

DRINK SMALL



MISSION

Music Maker Relief Foundation helps the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern music gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. We present these musical traditions to the world so American culture will flourish and be preserved for future generations.



Music Maker's first artist, Guitar Gabriel

©Duffy



Back Row: Willia Mae Buckner, Carl Rutherford, Frank Edwards, Macavine Hayes, Whistlin' Britches, Sarah, Fish Fryin' Mamma ; Second Row: Captain Luke, Cora Mae Bryant, Cootie Stark; Front Row: Mudcat, Tim Duffy, Drink Small

©Austin

Dear Friends,

The Music Maker Relief Foundation was born in 1994 when Tim and Denise Duffy met the blues genius Guitar Gabriel and several musicians living in the ghettos of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Once organized, the Foundation became a bustling hub of activity, providing these artists with life's most basic needs, gigs throughout the country and abroad, CDs, and media attention. We soon realized that our humble vision had enormous impact upon the artists we served and we had the potential to create a new model for the United States to preserve the culture that spawned our greatest musical traditions. Music Maker has since evolved into a national organization, serving artists throughout the country. Our touring programs send artists to Europe, Australia, South America and North America every year. We are presently planning our 6th Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament in Costa Rica and our 4th Annual Congressional Blues Festival in Washington D.C. Twelve years after opening our doors, the Music Maker Relief Foundation stands among the most dynamic organizations in caring for

our country's Southern musicians and preserving our cultural heritage.

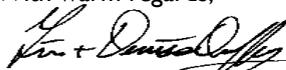
Today, the Music Maker Relief Foundation's comprehensive programs have nourished over 200 musicians living throughout the United States. Our programs have transitioned artists who were homeless and jobless to having homes and careers touring the world. We economically stabilize artists too infirm to leave their home by sending a monthly stipend to provide for food and medicine. We have released over 70 CDs and worked on many film projects so that these artists' music and lives are documented for future generations. We help artists actualize their dreams for their personal advancement and to enrich the lives of music fans around the world.

Acting on our vision to change how elderly pioneers of our Southern musical traditions are treated, we have brought the world's attention to artists who would have never been noticed. As a result, Music Maker Relief Foundation is making musical history.

Each day throughout the year, we are contacted by music fans the world over. Each week we receive leads on incredible traditional musician. Each month we have media coverage of previously unknown artists; concerts are scheduled and we provide for artists who will never perform again. Every year, we work with new artists and give them the confidence and the tools to succeed with a career in music and make them realize all these things we are working for can come true.

Please support the Music Maker Relief Foundation. Renew your membership or become a Music Maker Member today! Take advantage of the \$50,000 Membership Challenge, made possible by a group of devoted donors, to match your gift.

With warm regards,


Timothy & Denise Duffy

Musician Sustenance

THE NEED:

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

THE SOLUTION:

Musician Sustenance program to provide grants to meet basic life needs and emergency relief.

Eddie Kirkland was born in Jamaica in 1924 and raised in Alabama from age two until he went off with the Sugar Girls Medicine show at twelve. His teens brought him to Indiana and the North, eventually settling in Detroit. There he toured and recorded with John Lee Hooker for seven and a half years. They made a solid team before parting in the 60's.

Kirkland moved to Georgia, where he was bandleader for Otis Redding. Continuous road tours had him working with Ruth Brown, Little Richard, Ben King, Little Johnnie Taylor and many more greats. In 1962, Kirkland recorded "It's the Blues Man" for Prestige, reissued by Fantasy as a Blues collector's item. Kirkland's hit the "Hawg" recorded by the Stax/Volt label, earned him national celebrity. Since this time, Eddie has traveled throughout the world, recorded on many labels and at 83 years old, he is still touring.

Eddie Kirkland has been a professional musician as long as B.B. King, but his career has been a struggle, performing from one blues joint to the next, throughout the world.

Eddie is a very proud man and rarely calls on MMRF for assistance. We first helped Eddie in 1999 when we heard of the tragic death of his young daughter and were able to send necessary emergency funds. This past March, I called Eddie who lives in Macon, Georgia, when I heard that the transmission went out in his van. He related, "I am 83 years old, raising a young family, and I have some gigs next month that I have to get to. My transmission broke on my van and I can tear the old one out and put in a rebuilt transmission myself. I do what I have to do to keep on playing my blues."

Music Maker was able to grant Eddie \$400 to help him keep on the road. Eddie talked to Tim Duffy at length and expressed his willingness to perform anywhere, so we are now working to book him more gigs.



© controlled

Eddie Kirkland



©Duffy

Haskell "Whistlin' Britches" Thompson

We met **Haskell "Whistlin' Britches" Thompson** 10 years ago when Captain Luke let us know there was a guy who was an incredible "clicker". He was homeless and living in shelters, cardboard boxes and abandoned houses. With the help of Music Maker, Haskell soon moved in with Captain Luke. Music Maker has been able to support Haskell over the years and in return, he shares clicking and his unique dance moves with the world. We recently were able to document him in our DVD, "Drink House to Church House, Volume 1." He has always brought a new layer to the music, and is the biggest fan of Music Maker supporters. That's why we were devastated to learn he would need to have his leg amputated because of diabetes this fall.

Haskell is always telling people he fears what his life would be like without the assistance of the generous Music Maker supporters. When he called the office stating he couldn't make a gig because he could no longer walk, we called on Music Maker volunteer John Creech to take him to the Emergency Room. Haskell was reluctant to go because he knew the outcome could change

his life. After his leg was amputated he found it hard to navigate through the intricacies of the medical system. "I didn't know what to do. I thought I was going to be homeless again and without a leg. I didn't know where to go. I didn't even have Medicare."

That's when we called Dr. David Thurber, an Advisory Board Member and the Medical Director for the Cary Hospital Medicine Services in North Carolina. Dr. Thurber helps Music Maker artists break down barriers in the health care system; he helped Carl Rutherford donate his body to science and worked with Cootie Stark's doctors to make his final days peaceful ones.

Dr. Thurber called the hospital and worked with Haskell's doctors and social worker to move him to an assisted living program and get on-going physical therapy. Haskell is enjoying his "Cadillac room" and is no longer worried about homelessness, his diabetes, or going hungry. He now has Medicare and will never enter a hospital uninsured again. David states, "It's just nice to have such a positive influence on someone's care."

HOW CAN YOU HELP MUSIC MAKER?

We can always use your help to help our mission grow! Here are a few ways you can volunteer with Music Maker:

Become a Member!

Our Membership Challenge will double your gift in 2007!

Throw a Music Maker Bash!

Have a party for Music Maker! You can either have your closest friends over for a potluck or work with a local club and throw a benefit!

Join the Street Team!

We'll send you newsletters every season, and you pass them out around your community!

Become a Monthly Donor

Help keep the blues alive every month.

Tell a Friend

Let your friends know about Music Maker, send them to our website or have them contact us to join the mailing list.

Gift with Music Maker

Think of gifting with Music Maker for birthdays, special occasions and holidays. We will gift wrap your item and include your special message with the gift! It's a great way to help keep the blues alive!

Volunteer or Intern

Come to our offices in Hillsborough, NC, college students can often receive credits for work done with Music Maker.

Please contact our offices or email volunteer@musicmaker.org to learn more.

MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT

THE NEED:

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

THE SOLUTION:

Musical Development program to provide grants and services for recipient artist professional development and career advancement.



©Duffy

Boo Hanks

Boo Hanks (b.1927) is a great Piedmont blues artist. The unique thing about Boo is that we all thought we knew every great Piedmont blues artist around. Then one day Tony Young, a fervent MM supporter, brought Boo to our headquarters. When this 80-year-old man picked up an old Gibson guitar and started to play, we were stunned. Boo performed the purist Blind Boy Fuller style blues that we had heard in years.

Boo learned how to play from his father, a tobacco farming musician and contemporary of Blind Boy Fuller. Boo made music for dances and community functions. He never considered playing professionally or recording.

We discussed with Boo how important his art was and what a special and tremendous talent he had and that it should be known of and celebrated. We suggested he could increase his income in the process and he was very open to the notion. We soon granted Boo a new guitar and CDs of his music. He has actually sold 100s of these in his community even before the artwork has been made and the title issued in our catalog. Since January, Boo has performed publicly four times as a professional entertainer. He has been filmed for French National TV, received a full page article on his music in his local paper, and has visited with legendary blues scholars Bill Ferris and Glenn Hinson at UNC Chapel Hill's Southern Folklife Collection at the Wilson Library where he listened to old recordings of Blind Boy Fuller that he has not heard in decades. Boo is more enthused and interested in his music than he has been in years. His family and community are extremely proud of him.

We have introduced Boo to musicians such as John Dee Holeman, Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes, Cool John Ferguson and Zeke Hutchins. Boo gets the biggest joy of recording with Carolina Chocolate Drop member Dom Flemons and jamming with his new musical peers. He is awed that 80-year-old Captain Luke travels to France, Argentina and has been working with MM for years. Boo is now considering applying for a passport and traveling with us to Europe one day.



©Duffy

Benton Flippen

Benton Flippen (b.1920) stems from an extremely influential generation of old-time musicians, a group of men from Surry County, North Carolina by the names of Fred Cockeram, Tommy Jarrel, Earnest East and Kyle Creed whose music inspired generations of old-time music enthusiasts. The Fiddlers Conventions at which these men performed in total obscurity in their youths continue to flourish in modern times. The musicians in this group of music makers each forged their own strongly unique styles in the '30s and '40s. Only Benton still performs for square dances every weekend and in 2007, at the internationally celebrated

Mt. Airy Fiddler Convention, will stand as the sole survivor of this fraternity. Benton still competes, leading his band, the Smokey Valley Boys, that he formed in the '60s, disbanded in '85, and reformed at the turn of this century.

Benton is 86, yet his music is spirited as a young child and he still pursues his music with strong interest. Music Maker has been able to help Benton arrange engagements and will soon be issuing a new CD for him to sell at local square dances and summer festivals.



©Duffy

Adolphus Bell

Adolphus Bell has been touring as a one-man band for more than 35 years. During this time, he traveled from town to town in his station wagon playing on street corners, clubs and private parties. We had heard of Adolphus but could never locate him, until a few years ago when we were given a telephone number in Birmingham, Alabama.

"Tim Duffy called me up and asked me if I wanted to perform at a festival down in Arkansas, he never met me but he sent me \$400 to get my car fixed and to meet him down at this event." Upon seeing Adolphus perform, we knew he was truly the world's greatest one-man band. We also learned he had been homeless for the past 15 years and had been living in his van.

Within a short time, record producer Ardie Dean and Tim Duffy issued a tremendous record of Adolphus. HendersonBromstead Art designed an awesome record cover and soon after, comic book illustrator legend Gary Dumm had created a comic strip for this blues bard. Adolphus was soon being requested for festivals in Australia and Europe and through the advocacy of Ryan Costello in Washington, he soon had the passport that had been denied him for years.

Since this time, Adolphus has toured overseas 10 times, performed with Taj Mahal in Costa Rica and on a Blues Cruise and this year is scheduled to tour South America, Europe and the United States. With the income from touring and CD sales, Adolphus has rented an apartment, bought a mobile phone, maintains a good running car and every month he has something to look forward to.

"I really cannot believe how my life has changed since I started working with the Music Makers, they have bought me teeth, got my guitar out of the pawnshop, and I finally have a career after 35 years of struggling. The old people used to tell me, good things come to those who wait. I thank Jesus Christ for pulling me through and I am dedicating my life to doing the best I can with the gifts that God has given me."

Cultural Access

THE NEED:

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

THE SOLUTION:

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

Music Maker is dedicated to giving voice to the artist we serve. In the '70s to the '80s there was scant interest in searching out and celebrating unknown masters of the blues. Fortunately, we have witnessed a growing interest in this music since our work began in the early '90s. We are proud to have presented over 1,000 performances, produced over 70 CDs, contributed to many films, and toured our artists the world over. We have done this in a manner that respects the artists, fosters deep relationships of trust, and helps these great men and women financially in a correct and positive manner.

Since 1994, we have been publishing our Music Maker Rag. In its early days, we had 500 readers bi-annually and this has grown to 60,000 readers quarterly. In 1998, we launched our own website that informs people of our mission, our extensive CD catalog, documentary photos, MP3's, articles and our artist roster. Over the years Music Maker has developed a worldwide brand that has become the leading source for discovering previously unheard voices of Southern music.

Since our early days, we have developed touring opportunities; we have played on the streets, in drink houses, bars and clubs to venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. We have developed close relationships with festivals that cherish our musicians. The Nancy Jazz Pulsations (France), Cognac Blues Passions (France), Byron Bay Roots and Blues Festival (Australia), Botofoga (Argentina), Blues to Bop (Switzerland), Mississippi Valley Blues Festival (USA), Portsmouth Blues Festival (USA) and many others invite MMRF artists to their events year after year. The City of Durham, NC will be sponsoring our 3rd Warehouse Blues Series this summer. Each Friday night in June, July and August MM artists will be featured in the historic tobacco district.

We very proud that Chris Colbourn and Concerted Efforts have signed the Carolina Chocolate Drops to their agency and this group will perform nearly 150 shows this year including performances at Merle Fest, the Calgary Folk Festival and the most prestigious Newport Folk Festival.

We have partnered with major record labels such as N2K, Cello Recordings, Putumayo, Oxford American Magazine Music Issue and Starbucks over the years. Our artists' recordings are all available on iTunes. Recently, we forged a partnership with Dixie Frog Records in France who have made artists such as Pura Fe, Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes, Pink Anderson, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Alabama Slim and many others known to blues music fans throughout Europe. This year, we plan to solidify relationships with record companies in Argentina and Australia.

Documentation is an important part of our mission. We helped Kenny Wayne Shepherd with his Warner Brothers film release, "10 Days Out, Blues from the Backroads" which aired this past February on 75% of the PBS stations in the U.S. featuring performances by Cootie Stark, Neal Pattman, John Dee Holeman and Jerry McCain. We have issued two volumes of our DVD series, "Drink House to Church House" and directed the yet unreleased "Living the Blues." We are consistently creating opportunities for our artists to get filmed.

Over the years, we have solicited publicity. With the support of publicist Katherine Walton, MM was featured on ABC Evening News' "Person of the Week", NY Times, Le Monde, Southern Living, Reader's Digest, Utne Reader, Marlin and dozens of other newspapers and publications. The Carolina Chocolate Drops were recently featured on NPR's Weekend Edition and News and Notes. Our recent tour of Argentina reaped articles in all the top national press and television. In France, we have appeared in the top national papers, magazines, radio and television. We are fortunate to have a story that people want to learn of.

We pride ourselves in our own events. We just had our 5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament in Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica. This event brings together men and women that truly support our mission and for a week of world-class bill-fishing and fabulous music. The finale concert that Taj Mahal donates to the island, attracted over 1,000 people to this remote village of 300 inhabitants making this the largest economic boon of the year in the region.



©Miranda

Cool John Ferguson

Events

visit our website: musicmaker.org
for up to date event listings
Carolina Chocolate Drops (CCD)

March

March 12 - CCD will be at NCSU's Library in Raleigh, NC

March 13-15 Pura Fe will be touring through France and will appear at College Courbert Pierrefitte sur Seine, France
7-9 pm at ENM, 17 Rue F. Mitterrand, 93380 Pierrefitte sur Seine. Workshop 2:30-4 pm
14th at Eglise Ste Therese des Joncherolees Pierrefitte sur Seine, France
Pura Fe with Otis Taylor at 8:30pm, 21 Av Nungesser, 93380 Pierrefitte sur Seine

March 16 - CCD at Pittsboro General Store in Pittsboro, NC

March 21 - Pura Fé will be at the University of Tennessee

March 24 - CCD at Jack of the Wood in Asheville, NC

March 30-31 MMRF Revue at the Festival d'amiens Musiques de Jazz et D'ailleurs Amiens, France. This festival welcomes Pura Fe, Macavine Hayes, Alabama Slim, Tim Duffy, Sol, Albert White and Ardie Dean

March 24 Chicken Raid in Atlanta, GA at the Northside Tavern, Annual benefit honoring the late Atlanta country blues legend Mr. Frank Edwards (1909-2002). Come out to the Northside Tavern for an incredible day of music!

March 30 - 31 Mudcat CD Release Party, this 2 day event will be in Atlanta, GA at the Northside Tavern and is sure to be a fun time!

April

April 5 - 6 CCD at the Atlanta History Center in Atlanta GA

April 7 - CCD at Crimson Moon Cafe in Dahlonaga, GA

April 12-15 CCD will be part of the Alaska Folk Festival in Juneau, Alaska

April 19 - CCD at the Artscenter in Carrboro, NC 300 G. E Main Street

April 20 - CCD will be performing with the

Chuck Davis Dance Ensemble in Durham, NC

April 20 - Shakori Grass Roots Festival Pot Sticker, Ron Hunter and Lightin' Wells will be playing this festival April 21st the Carolina Chocolate Drops will be playing

April 21 - Join Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes and Cool John Ferguson at the Center for Documentary studies in Durham, NC at 7:30pm for "Live?Kill?Die?: 3 Questions in 2 Geographies" with Karen Michel, reception and BBQ. Visit our website for more information.

April 21 - John Dee Holeman will be playing at UNC Chapel Hill

April 27-29 CCD will be performing at Merlefest in Wilkesboro, NC

May

May 3 - MM Revue in France at Aulnay-Sous-Bois, Espace Culturel

May 4 MM Revue in Monthey, Switzerland at the Théâtre Crochetan

May 9 - MM Revue at New Morning in Paris, France

May 10 - MM Revue in Sochaux, France

May 10-14 MMRF Revue will be traveling through Switzerland

May 11 - MM Revue in Metz, France

May 11-12 CCD at the Lake Eden Arts Festival in Black Mountain, NC

May 13 - CCD at Postmaster's House in Aberdeen, NC

May 13-14 - MM Revue at Le Petit Faucheur in Tours, France

May 18-19 CCD will be at the Hockhocking Folk Festival in Nelsonville, Ohio

May 25 - CCD at the Paramount Theater in Bristol, VA

May 26-27 CCD will be at the Gathering in the Gap at Big Stone Gap, VA

June

June 3 - CCD at the Mount Airy Fiddler's Convention, join them at 5pm for Cocktails, T-shirts and Music

June 7 - CCD will be at Weaver Street Market in Carrboro, NC

June 8 - CCD at the Charlie Poole Music Festival in Eden, NC

June 9 - Benton Flippen at the Wilkesboro Heritage Museum in Wilkesboro, NC

June 10 - CCD will be at the Detroit Festival of the Arts, in Detroit, MI
June 21st - George Higgs will be playing at the Wilson Medical Center

June 23 - CCD at the Stagville Plantation in Durham, NC

July

July 1st - Drink Small will be playing at the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival

July 4 - CCD will be at the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, Port Townsend, WA

July 7-8 CCD will be at the Winnipeg Folk Festival in Winnipeg Canada

July 14-23 MM Revue in Gent, Belgium

July 21-22 CCD will be at the Hiawatha Music Festival in Marquette, MI

July 24 - CCD will be at the Swannanoa Gathering in Asheville, NC

July 25 - CCD will be playing the River to River Festival in New York, NY

July 26 - CCDs at the Bam Rhythm and Blues Festival at Metrotech Plaza in Brooklyn, NY

September

September 7-9 Tim Duffy, Ardie Dean, and Sol with Albert White, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Adolphus Bell and Mudcat, Roots N Blues N BBQ, Columbia, MO

Want to book a Music Maker Artist? Contact us at 919-643-2456 or email us. booking@musicmaker.org

Warehouse Blues Series will be Every Friday in June, July and August at the West Village Apartments in Durham, NC from 6-8pm

New Orleans Musicians' Fund

THE NEED:

Over 3,000 musicians in New Orleans were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. They found themselves with no family support, jobless in strange cities, desperate, not able to navigate FEMA and needed assistance in rebuilding their lives.

THE SOLUTION:

The New Orleans Musician's Fund provides assistance to musicians affected by Hurricane Katrina. MMRF has worked with 100 NOMF artists providing cash grants, housing, instrument replacement and helping them navigate other nonprofit and government aid programs.



©Duffy

Little Freddie King

New Orleans blues patriarch **Little Freddie King** lost everything during Hurricane Katrina. He could not evacuate because his only form of transportation was a bicycle. As the flood waters surged in his home in the 9th ward, Freddie barely escaped with his life. We were fortunate to connect him with Gibson Guitars who donated him a top of the line Gibson B.B. King Lucille style guitar. We were able to help him with clothing, medicine, shows and much support with his relocation to Dallas, Texas. When his FEMA housing support ends in August we will help him find a new home.



©Duffy

Alabama Slim



This disaster also brought us close to blues artist **Alabama Slim**, who saved Little Freddie King's life during the hurricane. We were able to assist Slim with clothing, emergency funds and most importantly, getting back to work. With NOMF grants he recorded his first CD at the age of 72 and is featured in our Drink House to Church House series. We assisted with his temporary move to Dallas, Texas and relocation back to New Orleans this winter. This January, we booked Slim to perform 18 shows in 20 days throughout France. He heads back to Europe in March and has more dates booked overseas this summer.



©Duffy

Sleefoot and Cary B.

Sleefoot has been performing in New Orleans since 1972. When Katrina hit, he was in West Virginia with his partner **Cary B.** recuperating from coronary bypass surgery. Not knowing if they had a home to return to in New Orleans and not allowed to return, Sleefoot and Cary resided at our guest-house for several weeks as he recovered. As soon as it was possible, this couple returned to New Orleans. MMRF made grants for rent, instruments, performance subsidies and the creation of a new CD. Sleefoot and Cary B. remain in their beloved city and are committed to the struggle of keeping the New Orleans music scene vibrant.

Directors

THE NEED:

The organization needs resources and expertise in the music industry and other professional communities.

THE SOLUTION:

Board of Directors and Advisory Board

Board of Directors

Timothy Duffy - President, Denise Duffy, Taj Mahal, Ryan Costello, Daniel "Mudcat" Dudeck, Bill Puckett, Henry Slyker, Blane Wright

Advisory Board

B.B. King, Bonnie Raitt, Levon Helm, Ardie Dean, Dickey Betts, Jimmy Herring, Derek Trucks, Susan Tedeschi, Tift Merritt, Carolina Chocolate Drops, Tom Rankin, Sue Foley, Colonel Bruce Hampton, Jackson Browne, Pura Fé, Ken Shepherd, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Jerry Harrison, Pete Townshend, Lightnin' Wells, John Price, David Thurber, Jr. MD, Bill Krasilovsky, Rick Savitt



Taj Mahal on stage with Music Maker Artists

©Austin

Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal has been a major recording artist since his debut album in 1967. Over the past 40 years, Taj Mahal has been a tireless preacher of American roots music, recording 40 albums, receiving six Grammy nominations and winning two Grammy awards. His career has spanned acting in television and movies; scoring for television, plays, movies; and recording children's records. Much of his early work in the 70s set the groundwork for the present-day world music scene. He recently was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music from the University of Massachusetts, Taj Mahal serves on our board of directors, and has used his influence and expertise to guide this organization. In 1996 Taj met Tim Duffy in Los Angeles and soon introduced MMRF to the likes

of B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Dan Akroyd, John Landis and other celebrities. Over the years Taj has lead our artists on a 42-city, nationwide tour, recorded and been filmed with many MM artists, made himself available to interviews with press, and been a constant source of advice and support in the development of the organization. Each year he donates his time to host the Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament. Taj Mahal takes sincere interest in the musicians of the foundation and makes significant contributions to their careers. Etta Baker, Cootie Stark, Neal Pattman, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Cool John Ferguson, Pura Fe and the Carolina Chocolate Drops are just a few of the artists Taj Mahal has tirelessly championed to the music press and industry with immense impact.



Denise Duffy and Bonnie Raitt

©Duffy

Bonnie Raitt

Advisory Board Member **Bonnie Raitt**, pictured here with Denise Duffy, has been a tremendous help to the Music Maker Relief Foundation. She has been a good friend to women artists Jessie Mae Hemphill, Willa Mae Buckner, Precious Bryant and Beverly "Guitar" Watkins. Each year, Bonnie donates and supports our mission. This year Bonnie, Eric Clapton and Derek Trucks each wrote a letter of support for our preservation grant proposal to the Grammy Foundation.



©Miranda

Kenny Wayne Shepherd

Advisory Board Member **Kenny Wayne Shepherd** has supported us with performances at the past two Congressional Blues Festivals and has pledged to donate the profits of his new CD/DVD "10 Days Out, Blues from the Backroads" to MMRF.



©Duffy

B.B. King and Eric Clapton

B.B. King and Eric Clapton have been active supporters of MMRF since 1996.



Justin Robinson, Rhiannon Giddons, Dom Flemons

©Coston

Carolina Chocolate Drops

musicmaker.org • 6

The **Carolina Chocolate Drops** have taken our mission to heart. When not on the road, they visit 87-year fiddler old Joe Thompson and blues artist John Dee Holeman every week. The elders of MMRF are brought to tears upon meeting these remarkable young African Americans. John Dee relates, "I never thought in my lifetime I would meet a young generation that would carry this music on." Dom Flemons, Rhiannon Giddens and Justin Robinson are introducing MMRF to a whole new audience.



Rita Pierce and Bill Puckett

©Duffy

Bill Puckett

Bill Puckett has served on MMRF board for eight years. He was instrumental in organizing the historic Winston Blues Revival tour and campaign and many other successful events. Bill was instrumental in our NOMF campaign and his marketing expertise has been invaluable throughout the years.

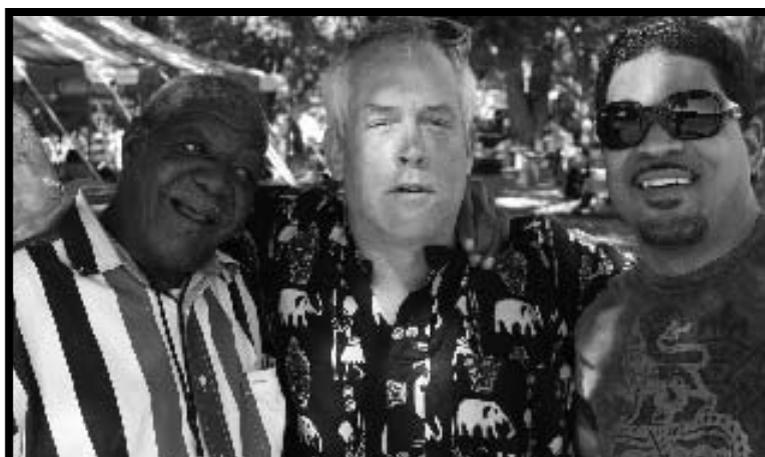
Donors

THE NEED:

MMRF needs resources to fulfill its mission

THE SOLUTION:

The support of over 6,000 MMRF Members, family foundations, corporations and music festivals.



Macavine Hayes, Bill Lucado and Oteil Burbridge

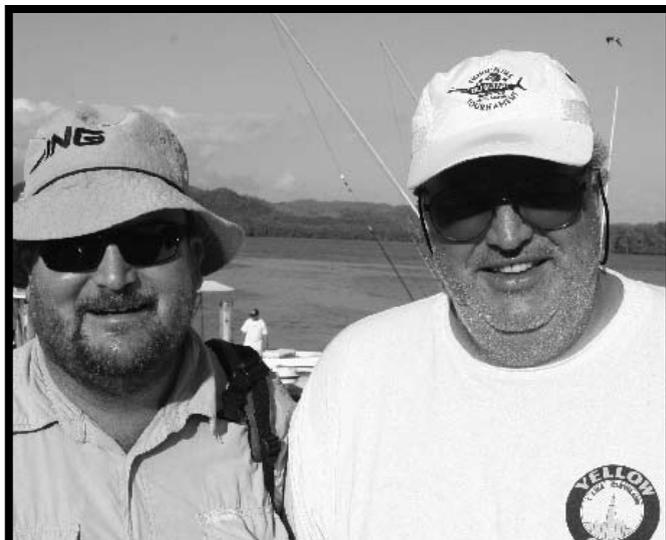
©Duffy

Bill Lucado

Georgia philanthropist **Bill Lucado**, pictured here with Macavine Hayes, offered MMRF a challenge gift to launch our Annual Fund in 2000. The Lucado Challenge matched donor's contributions dollar for dollar to the tune of \$100,000. Our MM donors responded and matched his offer.

Festivals

The Nancy Jazz Pulsations (France), the Cognac Blues Passions (France), and East Coast Roots and Blues Festival (Byron Bay, Australia) all support MMRF by hiring recipient artists each year and making substantial donations to support our mission.



©Duffy

Sean Sullivan and Brian McBride

Sean Sullivan and Brian McBride are sportsmen and music lovers from Cleveland, OH. They support MMRF by participating in the Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tourney each year and enlisting their friends to join us for fun in the Costa Rican sun.



John Dee Holeman and John Dee Holeman

©Duffy

Russ Comer

Russ Comer, pictured here with John Dee Holeman, of Durham, NC is a monthly donor to MMRF. "Going to Music Maker events is practically my entire social life. I have met so many wonderful artists and other donors in this area that have become my good friends. I especially enjoy becoming friends with John Dee Holeman and to be able to help drive him to local shows."



David Geanacopoulos, the VP of Government Affairs for VW of America, and Tim Duffy

Miranda

Volkswagon of America

Volkswagen of America has been the lead sponsor of the Congressional Blues Festival since its inception in 2003. Their steadfast support has grown this event and inspired many fortune 500 companies to help us celebrate America's musical traditions.

Volunteers

THE NEED:

Musician support organizations like the Music Maker Relief Foundation are always stretching to the needs of the musicians they serve given finite resources and manpower. On a limited budget, it takes passion, creativity and sacrifice to make a program work.

THE SOLUTION:

Every year, dozens of Music Maker volunteers donate their time and services to help recipient Music Maker artists. Many of these volunteers help us in our programs for years at a time learning invaluable life lessons from these great musicians or feeling good about helping at our offices to keep the organization growing.



©controlled

Lauren Hart and Kate Lindroos

Hampshire College students **Lauren Hart and Kate Lindroos** came to our headquarters in Hillsborough, NC to volunteer 36 hours per week during January 2007.

Their responsibilities were focused on the documentation aspects of our Cultural Access program. We have an extensive archive of field recordings of tradition Southern music made over the past 20 years on a variety of formats. The collection of original media was in great need of organization. This was a large and rather daunting project. Working as a team, Kate and Lauren rolled up their sleeves and plowed into hundreds of compact discs, digital reels, DAT tapes, mini discs of archival recordings and got the collection shelved in alphabetical order, labeled and logged into our database. To quote Timothy Duffy, "Those girls changed my life; I can actually find what I need!"

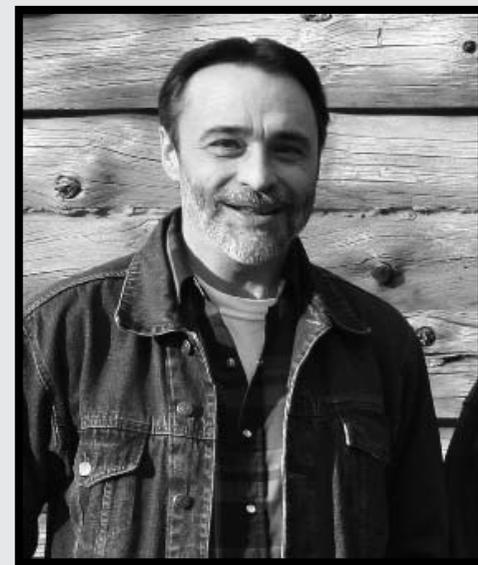
The Hampshire team also implemented a new organizational system for our archive of press clippings and assisted in the production of our upcoming newsletter, and helped the rest of the staff complete mailings, fill CD orders and organize the office space.

Lauren's interest in music lead us to enlist her to transfer field recordings from digital tape to compact disc and to enter the recordings into our database. Kate's research and writing talents were employed to glean through press clippings, archival notes and the web, to construct biographies of several artists to be mounted in our website.

Lauren and Kate exhibited the utmost dedication and showed a genuine commitment in our service work. These were among the most successful internships in the three-year history of our program.

Tony Young has been an ardent supporter of Music Maker Relief Foundation. Seriously injured in a car accident years ago, Tony has to survive on SSI like many of our recipient artists. It was a letter from Tony asking us if we would consider dropping the prices of our CDs that led to our \$10 CD sale that generated a huge increase of sales and donations.

Tony loves the musicians we serve and as he lives not too far away in Virginia, he would often stop by and visit at our headquarters. We soon discovered Tony lived in a very rich musical region and Tim taught Tony how to field scout new recipient artists in his region. Not long after, Tony introduced us to new artist Boo Hanks. Acting on information fellow volunteer Worth Prophet supplied, Tony was able to locate blues artists Pete Witcher and Gaile Caesar. Tony is presently following up with Pete's leads on other musicians in the Gretna, Virginia area.

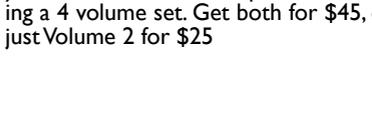
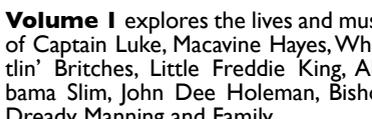
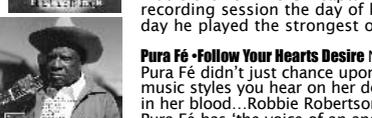
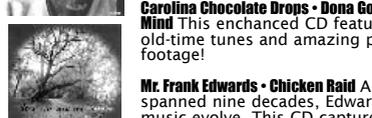
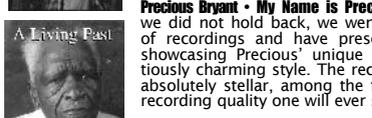
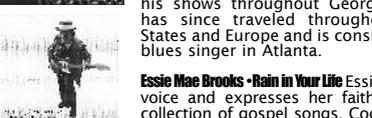
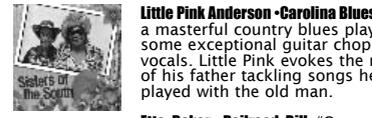


©Duffy

Tony Young

musicmaker.org

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Little Pink Anderson - 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 tackling songs he obviously played with the old man.

Etta Baker - Railroad Bill "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

Etta Baker with Taj Mahal A set of timeless beauty, spanning almost half a century, from a great lady of American vernacular music. Etta Baker is credited with helping spark the folk music revival in the 60s- no small feat for someone who didn't become a professional musician until she was in her 60s. This set includes duets with Taj Mahal plus all of her classic 1956 recordings.

Etta Baker & Cora Phillips - Carolina Breakdown This set was recorded in the late 80s when Etta Baker was in her prime. Her older sister Cora Phillips backs her up on guitar while Etta plays the banjo. Etta sings two songs on the release!

Adolphus Bell - One Man Band House Rockin' Foot Stompin' authentic Alabama One Man Band! This high energy release is guaranteed to give you a good time!

Sweet Betty: Live and Let Live. Betty grew up singing gospel, blues and popular songs of the day. In the mid 1980's, she met saxophonist, Grady "Fats" Jackson. Jackson was so impressed with Betty's voice that he began featuring her on his shows throughout Georgia. Sweet Betty has since traveled throughout the United States and Europe and is considered the finest blues singer in Atlanta.

Essie Mae Brooks - Rain in Your Life 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 Cora Mae Bryant is the daughter of Georgia guitar legend Curley 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 "is a stunning record featuring exceptional guitar playing that owes a strong debt to her father but also to his frequent partner Blind Willie McTell.

Precious Bryant - My Name is Precious In this CD we did not hold back, we went through hours of recordings and have presented 26 songs showcasing Precious' unique voice and infectious charming style. The recording quality is absolutely stellar, among the finest audiophile recording quality one will ever stumble across.

Carolina Chocolate Drops - Dona Got a Rambler Mind This enhanced CD features 14 classic old-time tunes and amazing performance footage!

Mr. Frank Edwards - Chicken Raid 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.

Pura Fé - Follow Your Hearts Desire Native chanteuse Pura Fé didn't just chance upon the myriad music styles you hear on her debut. They flow in her blood...Robbie Robertson recently said Pura Fé has "the voice of an angel." Believe the

hype! -Toronto Sun

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

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

Preston Fulp - Sawmill Worker 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 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.

Lee Gates - Black Lucy's Deuce The follow up album to his debut record. "he sounds like the kind of party-mad juke who'd shoot or stab you - and then go home with your woman - as readily as he'd smile in your face.

Guitar Gabriel - Volume One "Guitar Gabriel ventures well beyond drink houses into his own private Birdland, an improvisational crossroads where the starkly pre-modern meets the startlingly postmodern and the Devil's got his hair tied up in a ponytail/ to keep all the drunks confused." -Cree McCree

Guitar Gabriel - Deep in the South 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 "This CD is not for the faint of heart. It is raw, unembellished, and drenched with feeling-liable to elicit whoops, hollers, and spontaneous banging on whatever furniture is handy." -David Nelson

Macavine Hayes - Drinkhouse A powerful, raw release after 50 years of playing the blues. Cool John Ferguson, Ardie Dean, Michael Parrish and Tim Duffy create a tight combo that perfectly matches Macavine Hayes' pure juke-joint blues.

Big Boy Henry - Beaufort Blues 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 - Rainy Day An amazing performance from blues great George Higgs! Many thanks to the Arts Council of NC who made this CD possible.

George Higgs - Tarboro Blues 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 "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 Holeman - Bull Durham Blues "John Dee Holeman is a wonderful carrier of the southeast blues tradition." -Taj Mahal

Clyde Langford - High Steppin' Momma Everyone needs a dose of his East Texas Blues!

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

Bishop Dready Manning - Gospel Train This December Record Club release is a must have!

Jerry "Boogie" McCain - This Stuff Just Kills Me 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 Vaughn.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain - Unplugged 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 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 tells the stories of the fruit tramps. Day jobbers during the fruit harvesting season. A beautiful yet uneasy folk album.

Mudcat - I'll Be Young Once Too a tremendous slide guitarist, and most of all a god-gifted entertainer. I have witnessed him light up packed houses at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco, at the Irving Plaza in New York, to open air concerts in front of 10,000 folks in Lugano, Switzerland, to sitting on a curb in San Jose, Costa Rica entertaining dozens of young kids. Mud is born to make people smile and enjoy life

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

Mudcat - The Mess is On The new release from Mudcat. Featuring new band member Little Jo, Mudcat tears it up!

Neal Pattman - Prison Blues Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz Neals harp playing ad vocals have that classic sound that can only come from someone who has been steeped in the blues all of his life. He plays joyous, animated harp that recalls the whoopin' sound of Sonny Terry and an equal amount of country thrown in for good measure.

Carl Rutherford - Turn Off the Fear Here is grandfatherly 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.

Larry Shores - Songs from T-Town Larry Shores, a seasoned farmhand by the time he was 14, plays folk music from the Northwest. This is a treat!

Slewfoot and the Angels - Grasshopper Pie 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.

Slewfoot and Cary B - Rainin' in New Orleans Slew and Cary rainin' in new Orleans. In this second release Slewfoot is joined by his muse Cary B. These are real songs from the streets of New Orleans. Slewfoot is a great poet, both are wonderful singers and musicians, a must have.

Alabama Slim and Little Freddie King - The Mighty Flood This haunting tale of Hurricane Katrina, and the aftermath, comes straight from bluesman Alabama Slim and his cousin Little Freddie King.

Sol - volume blue 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 Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz Sugar Man doesn't merely proclaim "Cootie Stark was here." It is evidence that Stark was, and is, an idiosyncratic, tremendously talented musician. It's a sonic monument, and a mirror that immediately blurs the textbook pages dedicated to Piedmont Blues. It's a big deal.

Cootie Stark - Raw Sugar Cootie is one of the last great bluesmen from the Piedmont Tradition. Taj Mahal joins Cootie on hambone, 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 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 Here is Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, previously heard from as one of Dr. Feelgood's interns, decreeing herself "Back in Business." This is a highly charged record by this powerful performer.

The Feelings of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins Beverly is the leading woman guitar player of her generation. Beverly is a pyrotechnic guitar player whose searing, ballistic attacks on the guitar have become allegorical tales within the blues community.

Lightnin' Wells - Ragged but Right 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.

A Living Past 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 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 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 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.

Music Maker with Taj Mahal Blues legend Taj Mahal backs up Music Maker artists on upright bass, hambone, banjo, piano and guitar. Plus two wonderful solo acoustic tracks by the great man himself.

Music Maker Treasure Box - This incredible 3 CD compilation set celebrates Music Maker musicians, with 38 artists, 53 tracks, and 41 of those songs have never been issued before! Also comes with 36 page booklet. What a deal! THIS BOX SET IS \$30

Sisters of the South 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 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.

Collector's Item - Dixiefrog Presents Music Maker We have a limited supply of this compilation that was released in France, this 2 CD box set features Music Maker artists. Sells for \$30. Limited supplies.

New Releases

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

Boo Hanks: Pickin' Low Cotton Performs pure Blind Boy Fuller Piedmont blues!

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

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

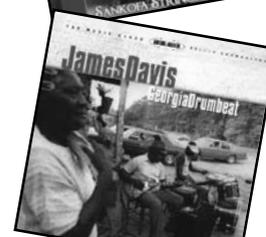
Sankofa Strings: Colored Aristocracy Blues, Stringband and Jazz featuring the incredible percussion and banjo of Sule Greg Wilson.

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

Drink House to Church House DVD/CD set: \$25

Volume 1 explores the lives and music of Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes, Whistlin' Britches, Little Freddie King, Alabama Slim, John Dee Holeman, Bishop Dready Manning and Family.

Volume 2 introduces you to the music and stories of Cool John Ferguson, Adolphus Bell, Drink Small & Pura Fé. Start your collection now, we plan on releasing a 4 volume set. Get both for \$45, or just Volume 2 for \$25



Book with CD: \$30
The story of the Music Maker comes to life in **Music Makers: Songs from the Roots of America**. With a forward written by B.B. King, this beautiful collection of photographs and writings showcases 70 musicians and includes a 23-track CD. 208 pages, 11" x 8", 160 b&w photographs, hardcover. To learn more about the musicians featured in the book purchase our compilation "Songs from the Roots of America, Volume 2"

The Whole Nine Yards: \$900
Want it all? You can have all our CDs, DVDs and book for \$900.

Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Results

Congratulations to the winners of the **5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament!** MMRF hosted 22 anglers at **The Zancudo Lodge** in Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica. There were 88 sailfish caught and released in 3 days of superb fishing that also featured catches of dorado, rooster fish, and yellow fin tuna. The big winners were:

Biggest Fish – Steve Sweitzer of Columbia, MO with the largest sailfish of the week

Most Sailfish – David White of Houston, TX who pulled in 14 sailfish

The **Sportsmanship Award** went to **Charlie Adams** of Greenville, NC for his unbridled enthusiasm for the tournament and for hauling in 11 Sailfish and a very tasty dorado.



Taj Mahal playing the final concert

©Duffy

A special **Lifetime Achievement Award** was given to fisherman **Willy Suter** of Manassas, VA to honor his 5 years of competition in the Tournament.

The winners of the Calcutta were for Most Sailfish - Day #1 **David White**, Day #2 **Charlie Adams**, Day #3 **David White** and Most Sailfish Overall - **David White**. A special thank you to **David** and **Charlie** for their generous donations to MMRF.

Hats off to **Taj Mahal** for bringing us together once again! We would also like to thank MMRF board members **Mudcat**, **Henry Slyker**, **Blane Wright**, and **Bill Puckett** and fisherman **Alan May-**

field for their hard work and support of the event. **Mike Narduli** of Patchogue, NY had to join us late and caught 5 sailfish and a 220 lb. black Marlin the day after the competition!

The concert on the 8th featured **Mudcat**, **Adolphus Bell**, **Little Freddie King**, **Tres Amigos**, and the **Taj Mahal Trio**. It was attended by over 900 enthusiastic fans!

Many thanks to hosts **Greg Mufson** and **Mike Gibson** and their staff (especially **Eber & Estoban**) 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 **6th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament February 10th - 16th, 2008!** Contact fishin@musicmaker.org for more info.



Hal and David White returning from a day of fishing ©Duffy

Our deepest appreciation to the competitors in the **5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament :**

Charlie Adams of Greenville, NC
Ken Johns of Sarasota, FL
Gary Keenan of Albuquerque, NM
Bill Kennish of Englewood, FL
Alan Mayfield of Charlotte, NC
Taj Mahal of Berkeley, CA
Brian McBride of Cleveland, OH
Janet McBride of Albuquerque, NM
Ernie McLean of Atlanta, GA
Todd Melillo of Oxnard, CA
Bill Puckett of Delaplane, VA
Jay Robinson of Fort Valley, GA
Jennie Hart Robinson of Fort Valley, GA
Hank Slyker of Parkton, MD
Henry Slyker of Vermilion, OH
Sean Sullivan of Cleveland, OH
Willie Suter of Manassas, VA
Steve Sweitzer of Columbia, MO
David White of Houston, TX
Hal White of Coral Gables, FL
Terry Woodruff of Columbia, MO
Blane Wright of Westminster, MD

News From France

Fin janvier, le public français a accueilli **Alabama Slim** et **Beverly "Guitar" Watkins** pour un concert au New Morning, suivi d'une tournée dans les villes de l'Hexagone pendant 2 semaines. Leur approche différente du blues, l'accoustique mélo de l'un et l'électrique épique de l'autre ont fait leur succès et les Français en redemandent! Music Maker sera à nouveau sur les routes de France dès la mi-mars avec Pura Fé, ainsi qu'à la fin du mois avec une série de concerts qui rassemblera plusieurs artistes de la fondation, ...avant leur retour au festivals estivaux à partir de juin! Pour plus d'information sur les tournées en France: www.musicmaker.org/events ou donations@musicmaker.org, www.nuevaonda.fr

Retrouvez Music Maker dans les bacs en France:
 - Drink House to Church House Vol.1 (coffret CD + DVD), DixieFrog, nov. 2006
 - Pura Fé, Tuscarora Nation Blues, DixieFrog, mai 2006
 - Music Maker: Last & Lost Blues Survivors (coffret 2 CD), DixieFrog, oct. 2005
 ou donations@musicmaker.org

Artists' Notes

Pink Anderson has diabetes and was told by his nutritionist that pecans would be good snack because they are low in sugar. He called up MMRF and told us he needed pecans but cannot find them in South Dakota. He'd like shelled, roasted, and unsalted please. Send to: **Pink Anderson**, 807 Cottage Ave #30, Vermillion SD 57069

Freddie King, Adolphus Bell, Mudcat had a great time in Costa Rica at the 5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament.

Support **Skeeter Brandon!** Check out skeeter-brandon.com for events and news.

Precious Bryant had a great conversation with our interns from Hampshire College, **Kate and Lauren**. Precious is still battling with her leg, but enjoys her time. She was very happy to receive a grant to pay her light bill. "Because of MM I am not in the dark."

The **Carolina Chocolate Drops** were recently on NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday. Many thanks to producer, Karen Michel, for this wonderful story.

We got a call from **Drink Small** the other day and he said he was moving. He's a little anxious about this move, as he's acquired a lot of things over the years. If you are in the Columbia, SC area and want to help a legend move, email info@musicmaker.org

The legendary **Chicken Raid**, a music festival honoring Mr. Frank Edwards will be held March

24th. This festival is put together by Music Maker Board Member Mudcat, and brings in MM musicians **Eddie Tigner**, **Essie Mae Brooks**, **Beverly "Guitar" Watkins**, **Adolphus Bell**, **Tommy Brown**, **Mudcat**, and many other talents. This is held at the Northside Tavern in Atlanta, GA. Visit northsidetavern.com

Pura Fé will be traveling to France in June and is excited about her French CD to be released in May. Visit musicmaker.org for updates.

We are finishing up the new **Benton Flippen** CD. Keep an eye on the website, and we'll let you know once it is released!

Preston Fulp, **Guitar Gabriel**, **Etta Baker**, **Cora Mae Bryant**, **Sonny Boy King**, and **Clyde Langford** are just a few of the many new artists that have been added to our **Artist Roster**. Check out musicmaker.org and click on Artist Roster to learn more about these incredible musicians!

We've gotten quite a few calls interested in hearing **Lee Gates** perform! Lee Gates loves to talk to his fans! He plays the jam at Conway's Bar in Milwaukee, WI every Wednesday. We suggest contacting Conway's at 2127 W Wells St, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

Music Maker recently received a \$25,000 grant from **The Blues Music Foundation**, a nonprofit organization launched during 2003's Year of the Blues celebration. Music Maker will use this money to complete their documentary film, "Drink House to Church House".

George Higgs gave his *Drink Small* first full public performance since his serious illness over one year ago at R.A. Fountain Store near his home in Tarboro, NC. George played both the guitar and harmonica and sang two full sets of his familiar Piedmont blues numbers to a small but appreciative crowd. George stated that he felt confident enough to play some weekend gigs close to home as he continues his dialysis treatments two times a week.

The **Carolina Chocolate Drops** have been visiting **John Dee Holeman** about once a week to learn new licks. John Dee enjoys the energy of having these young musicians come around.

Little Freddie King is still living in Dallas, Texas, since Katrina hit, but **Alabama Slim** has moved

back to New Orleans.

Captain Luke gave us a call feeling horrible! Apparently he had a horrible stomach flu and had to visit the ER and get costly medicine. We were able to help him out with an emergency grant. When last we talked he was feeling a lot better and was able to walk around. He thanks everyone for supporting Music Maker and helping him keep his health up!

Bishop Dready Manning invites everyone out St. Mark Holiness Church, 3110 Sam Powell Dairy Rd in Roanoke Rapids, NC to his church services on Sunday. These are great services to attend!

Dave McGrew and **Larry Shores** are trying their best to stay warm in eastern Washington state. Music Maker recently sent Dave an amp, which he was excited to get. He called us up and said with it too cold to go outside much he'll have more time to practice.



©Austin

Sol has played bass for years with Music Maker, but his band the Sol Creech Band, is amazing to watch. This band lays down a heavy groove! Sol fluently tears out blues, jazz, and reggae, delivered with deep Southern soul. Visit solcreechband.com and see if they are touring in your area.

When you visit **Greenville Memorial Gardens**, in Greenville, SC you can see **Cootie Stark's** gravestone. We wish to thank **John Price** for donating this memorial marker for his friend.

Are you on **myspace**? So is Music Maker! Visit our page myspace.com/musicmakerrelieffoundation and become our friend!

Sweet Betty had a great time with **Albert White**, **Sol** and **Ardie Dean** in Manteo recently at the 3rd Annual Freedman's Colony Celebration. Special thanks to Mike Russell and Swamp Rat Productions for bringing them down.

Eddie Tigner had a great time on the blues cruise along with **Mudcat**, **Albert White**, **Little Joe**, **Beverly "Guitar" Watkins**, **Pura Fé**, **Sol** and **Adolphus Bell**. Many thanks to **Taj Mahal** for having them as his band and organizer **Roger Naber** for such an incredible event! A big thank you to the **Blues Cruise** and **Julia Naber** for raising over \$3,300 for Music Maker on the cruise with their silent auction! Their support and help are helping keep the bluest of the blues alive!

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins says she is feeling great! She's taking care of what she eats, exercising and visiting her doctor regularly to stay fit! She thanks everyone who helped her during her recovery from her heart attack three years and is excited to be back in business! She just returned from the Blues Cruise and France and is ready to get back on the road!

"Lightnin'" Wells has a few shows coming up in the North Carolina area. Visit his website lightninwells.com for more information.

Whistlin' Britches is doing great! He's gained a lot of weight and is adapting to his new prosthetic leg. **Captain Luke** and **Macavine Hayes** visit him occasionally, and the three even put a show at Whistlin' Britches assisted living facility. Thanks to all the donors who heard about Whistlin's plight and help Music Maker with a donation.

We need you to **Design our Flag!** Music Maker wants to have its own flag and we are looking to our supporters to help us design it...so visit musicmaker.org to learn more about this competition.

John Dee Holeman's new CD with **the Waifs band** has become a popular release! Make sure to check this out.

Many thanks to **Ali Colleen Neff**, a graduate student from UNC-CH Folklife program, for all the help she offered Music Maker recently. She has struck up a friendship with **Boo Hanks**, and has visited him often in Buffalo Junction, VA.

Are you getting our **online newsletter**? If not, visit our website and sign up and get monthly updates on the artists and Music Maker.

Congressional Blues Festival

In 2004, Music Maker Board member Ryan Costello founded the Congressional Blues Festival in Washington, D.C. This event has brought an exciting, new level of awareness to the mission of MMRF and the traditional musicians we serve. It is tremendously heartening to see our nation's legislative community embrace our musical heritage with such unbridled enthusiasm.



The 4th Annual Congressional Blues Festival presented by Volkswagen of America will take place at the Mellon Auditorium on May 16, 2007 and will headline The Derek Trucks Band.

Derek Trucks, a MM advisory board member, who is also a guitarist with the Allman Brothers and recently toured with Eric Clapton, was just featured on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine as one of today's "guitar gods." While Trucks's music is deeply rooted in the blues tradition, this 27-year-old guitar prodigy has appealed to younger audiences throughout the country. Sharing the stage that night will also be Music Maker blues sensations Mudcat (Atlanta, GA), Sweet Betty (Atlanta, GA) and Adolphus Bell (Birmingham, AL).

Just blocks away from the U.S. Capitol, this festival is unique in its ability to bring together political, corporate and public support for the same cause.

"I look forward to this celebration of American roots music each year," says Congressman Chip Pickering (R-Miss.). "From rock's Elvis Presley to country's Jimmie Rodgers, the blues of the Delta, Mississippi, American music and that cultural heritage can be shared regardless of politics or ideology. The Congressional Blues Festival provides a great venue to enjoy the American creative and performing spirit, while allowing the private sector to encourage, promote, and provide for, talented musicians who somehow missed corporate commercial success."

Last year's five-hour blues marathon rallied over 3,000 fans and 30 members of Congress and the Senate, including some who personally jammed alongside last year's artists. Past performers include Taj Mahal Trio, Robert Randolph and the Family Band, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, and Levon Helm.

"There is no better place to honor such an important part of our American heritage and identity than in our nation's capitol," says Ryan Costello. "This is more than just a concert. It is about recognizing the roots of all forms of modern music and supporting those who helped create it."



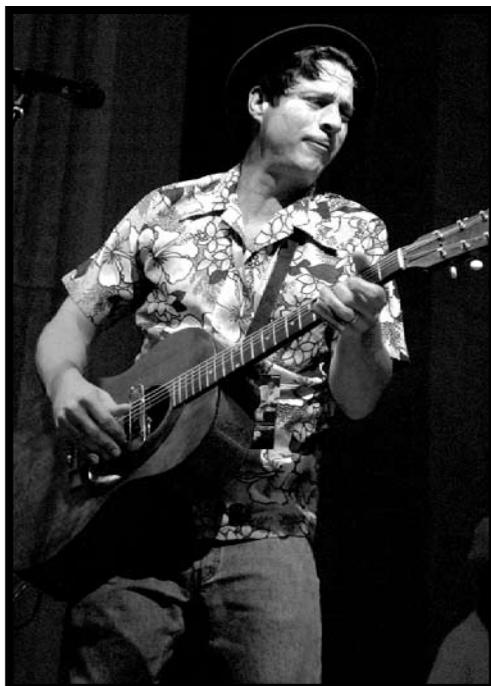
Ryan Costello, Lucy Duffy and Taj Mahal

©Duffy



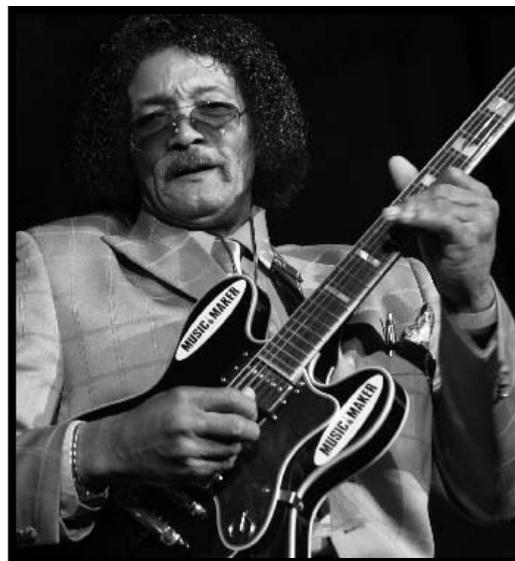
Beverly "Guitar" Watkins

©Miranda



Mudcat

©Lappin



Lee Gates

©Miranda



The Carolina Chocolate Drops with Taj Mahal

©Lappin



Levon Helm headlined the first CBF

©Shah

Event Details:

The Derek Trucks Band, Mudcat, Sweet Betty, Adolphus Bell, Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes

Wed, May 16th
6:15 - 11pm
Mellon Auditorium
1301 Constitution Ave.
Washington, DC

ticket information:
congressionalbluesfest.org

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Ask Amy

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



I really like Lee's Boogie. I heard it on XM Radio, what a great artist/blues musician. Can you tell me what guitars and amplifiers Lee uses to get his unique sound? I think you all at Music Maker have a great Mission. I like your website.

-John Thomas, Flora Vista, NM

Thanks John! Lee is an amazing musician, and his sound is really unique. I gave Lee a call and asked him about his guitar and amp. He says he uses an Epiphone Sheraton or a Jay Tarsen guitar and he used to play a LAB amp, just like the one B.B. King uses. But when I said I wanted to know how he got his sound he said, "It ain't the guitar it's my fingers. I can pick up any guitar and it will make that sound. I can use any amp, any guitar and it will always sound

like that. You get the sound from the wrist." I hope this helps you out!

I was wondering how Tim Duffy met Bill Minger?

-Don

Tim met this wonderful songwriter when he was 16 years old during a trip to Washington State where his brother was working as a fruit tramp. In 1997, Bill drifted through North Carolina and Tim and his brother Sam produced a great CD with Bill. Bill died tragically a few years ago when he was run over by a car. We hope to reissue this CD in the near future. We sent Don a copy of the CD and this was his reply.

"The mailman just brought me the CD's you sent. I can't thank you enough or tell you how much it means. When Bill died, I hadn't seen him in maybe ten years, but I always thought there'd be another day when he'd come knocking at my door. I'd give him a place to crash, take him for a meal, slip him a few bucks, and then he be back on the road. The

last time I heard from him, he left a phone message that he was coming to town with a bunch of derelicts and their dogs. The derelicts and dogs sounded over the top so I didn't call back. I've regretted it ever since. Like I wrote you before, Bill was my best friend for years and years. I partied with him, hiked with him lived with him, grew up with him. I read his poetry, listened to his songs, was with him when he bought his first harp, got his guitar out of hock, drank his whiskey under the railroad tracks, and counted him someone I could trust and love. The CD brought tears to my eyes."

-Don



Bill Minger

©Duffy