

# MUSIC & MAKER RAG

RELIEF FOUNDATION



Dear Friends,

From mountain hollers of Appalachia, to the housing projects of Birmingham, to the sleepy bayous of Louisiana, the musical traditions of the American South wear many different faces. The diverse sounds of Gospel, Blues, and Ballads form a rich pool that musicians worldwide drink from, and create a focus of pride throughout America. Urban or rural, black or white, sacred or secular, what these traditions all share is a birthplace among the working poor of our nation. Living hand to mouth in communities with scant resources leaves musicians struggling for life's essentials and threatens the survival of our cultural identity.

Music Maker Relief Foundation began as a very personal response to these needs among a handful of impoverished Blues artists in Winston-Salem. Over time we have built a unique model of social entrepreneurship that keeps our traditional musical culture vibrant by directly supporting those that make the music and by shining light on their talents to be enjoyed worldwide.

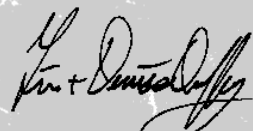
Through 19 years of grassroots experimentation and sweat equity, we have honed programs that create positive change in the lives of our partner artists, elevate the art forms, and make the music accessible to thousands of listeners. The professionalism of our organization has developed beyond the "mom and pop" shop of our founding. With results that can be replicated and are sustainable, Music Maker can now begin to build real capacity to broaden our impact and improve the lives of many more people - musicians and future generations of music lovers alike.

We are extremely proud of our team of Aaron Greenwood - Artists Services Coordinator, Corinne Everett Belch- Communications and Development Coordinator, Janet Askew- Accounting Coordinator, Cornelius Lewis- Program Assistant, and Ardie Dean- Musical Director. Through their expertise, dedication, and hard work, they have revitalized scores of our nation's most treasured Roots musicians.

Ironing Board Sam, whom we met last year, has had an amazing turn around in his life by partnering with our mission. Sam, who in his own words "was sitting around waiting to die," has since made a huge homecoming appearance at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, is being filmed for a documentary tracing his return to the stage, and has steady gigs at home and at festivals worldwide. He has reconnected with fans throughout the world. "Music Maker saved my life, each day I wake up looking forward to working on improving myself and my music."

This highly individual approach keeps music alive that will be cherished through the ages. Thank you so much for being willing to help us because your support will enable to keep our programs strong and growing.

With warm regards,



Tim & Denise Duffy



Tim and Denise Duffy, 2012, Chapel Hill  
© Aaron Greenwood

## Our Mission: Supporting

### MUSIC MAKER STAFF

Timothy Duffy, Executive Director  
Denise Duffy, Managing Director  
Corinne Everett Belch, Communications and Development Coordinator  
Aaron Greenwood, Artist Services Coordinator  
Janet Askew, Accounting Coordinator  
Cornelius Lewis, Program Associate

### 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

# ★Financial Report



- 85% Programs
- 9% Management
- 6% Fundraising

**\$541,721**  
Total Expenses

**MUSIC MAKER**  
up till now

**7,797**

Musician  
Grants

**3,450**

Shows

**1,822**

Music Maker  
songs released

**348**

Recipient Artists

**23**

Countries  
Music Maker  
artists have  
toured

**3**

programs

**1**

Mission

**190k**

audience mem-  
bers for 2010-11  
performances

**550**

live artist  
performances  
in 2010-2011

**130**

Events in  
2010-2011

## American Roots Music

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Timothy Duffy – president  
Rich Henneberry- treasurer  
Denise Duffy  
Catherine Elkins  
Bart Farrell  
Dom Flemons  
Rhiannon Giddens  
Tom Meyer  
Bill Puckett  
Justin Robinson  
Henry Slyker  
Tom Wallack  
Jon Porter

### ADVISORY BOARD

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Ruthie Foster  
Ardie Dean  
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Dickey Betts  
Jimmy Herring  
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Susan Tedeschi  
Tifts Merritt  
Lutz Engelhardt  
Sue Foley  
Jean-Herve Michel  
Colonel Bruce Hampton  
Pura Fe  
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Kenny Wayne Shepherd  
David Thurber, MD  
Jerry Harrison  
Pete Townshend  
Lightnin' Wells  
Don Was  
John Price  
Bill Krasilovsky  
Anne Pitts

### NEWSLETTER

**CREDITS**  
Written by Timothy  
and Denise Duffy,  
Corinne Everett Belch,  
Aaron Greenwood

Layout: Meg Wrather

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# ★ Musical Development

**Our Musical Development program provides grants and services for the professional development and career advancement of partners.**



Ironing Board Sam, 2012, New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival© T. Ciaburri

In September 2011, we relocated Ironing Board Sam to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. About that same time, in our online digging to uncover Ironing Board Sam music history, we found a lonely record on Ebay entitled “Ironing Board Sam - The Ninth Wonder of the World of Music.” For \$100 we could have it; we jumped. Later, when we played it for Sam, we found out that he had recorded the album with his drummer Lil’ George in the early 1970s in a studio in Gary, Indiana. Sam was tired of waiting on the labels to make the album of his dreams, so he recorded it himself. The album that we had in our possession was one of only 100 copies ever made. The original studio tapes are lost to history.

Two things occurred to us: the world needed to hear this lost album, and it was time to make a new album that was the singular expression of Ironing Board Sam’s musical vision at 72. We asked Sam if this was something that he also wanted; his eyes immediately lit up. To start, we got Sam a digital recorder that he could use to capture his musical ideas when the spirit moved him. After a few sessions training him how to use the device, he was recording himself daily. Every Monday when we would come by to transfer his music to our laptop, there would be a new crop of songs, which we sent to Ardie Dean, the album’s producer. After 2 months, we had over 30 songs to work with. We scheduled a recording session in Huntsville, Alabama with Ardie and top-notch session players, including the legendary Memphis Horns. Sam made three trips, totaling almost a month, to Huntsville, working up the material, with Ardie’s help overseeing the rest of the recordings. With an insatiable creativity, Sam recorded over 50 original songs. Almost 6 months into the recording process, Sam’s vision was coming into focus as the mixes were mastered and songs were selected for the completed album. The album is slated for release in early 2013. With all he accomplished, Sam could never record again and still have an impressive catalog. However, the title of the forthcoming album “Ironing Board Sam: Right Now” says much about Sam’s attitude and hints at more to come.

# ★ 2012 Releases



Boo Hanks with Dom Flemons  
*Buffalo Junction*

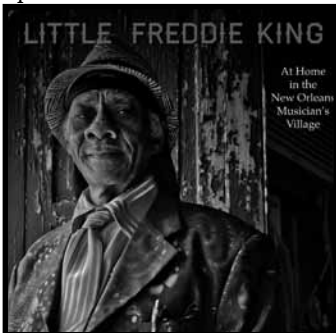


Henry Byrd, *Pomegranite Ave*



George Daniels *Rocks Out*

Boo Hanks with Dom Flemons. *Buffalo Junction*. The Illinois Entertainer calls *Buffalo Junction* "fascinating [,] important [,] a singular musical experience [, and] required listening for blues, folk, and musical history fans alike [featuring] dazzling pickin'"



Little Freddie King, *At Home...*



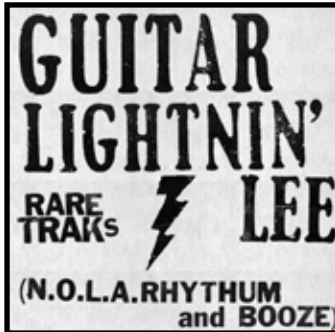
Robert L. Coleman, *One More Mile*



Alabama Slim, *Blue and Lonesome*



Ironing Board Sam, *Ninth Wonder*



Guitar Lightnin' Lee *Rare Traks*



Shelton Powe, *Carolina Blues and Gospel*

Purchase at [musicmakerstore.org](http://musicmakerstore.org) and on iTunes

# ★ Musician Sustenance

**The Musician Sustenance program provides grants for emergency relief and essential life needs.**

Precious Bryant has been a Music Maker partner artist since 1995. Her repertoire, filled with Chitlins Circuit classics like Little Willie John's "Fever" and Curtis Mayfield's "It's Alright," plus originals like "Wrenched My Ankle," is marked by her impeccable guitar skill and dynamic vocals, all delivered with an intimacy that makes the listener feel as if they are sweating together with her on a front porch. Her inimitable style took her to prestigious stages, from New York to Switzerland. Currently, her dialysis treatments require she stay close to home, so her gigs are limited, but she plays regularly in nearby Columbus, GA and is happy to stay close to family. She and her son Tony live on their ancestral land at the end of a long dirt road in Waverly Hall, Georgia. When Music Maker directors

Tim and Denise Duffy visited her in the summer of 2011, they found Precious and Tony living in a shell of a building, unfit for residence.

Music Maker reached out to their supporters – and so many of you responded. Bonnie Raitt offered to sign a guitar donated by Fender Guitars. This was auctioned aboard the Legendary Blues Cruise in January 2012, raising \$12,000. Columbus, Georgia club owner Buddy Nelms raised nearly \$5,000 locally among Precious' admirers. With additional help from Music Maker supporters, we raised enough money to begin seeking out a modest used mobile home.



Top: Precious in her new mobile home, 2012  
Bottom: Precious's new mobile home, 2012  
© A. Greenwood



In July 2012, the old trailer was dragged away and replaced with a two-bedroom unit, air conditioned and carpeted with new windows, appliances, and furniture. Precious and Tony now have a fresh start and a lovely place to live. Precious' skill and artistry are every bit what they were when blues researcher George Mitchell recorded her in 1967. Music Maker is dedicated to making it possible for artists like Precious to live dignified lives in their retirement and to honoring their rich contributions to our cultural heritage.

# ★ Cultural Access

## **Our Cultural Access Program builds appreciation and understanding of American roots music.**

America's rich heritage of folk music is shared and preserved for future generations through Music Maker's Cultural Access Program. With artist performances around the globe, we strive to bring diverse audiences together in appreciation of American traditional music. In our 2011/2012 program year, Music Maker's Cultural Access Program provided over 100 live performances in the US and abroad, educating and entertaining more than 100,000 people.

At home in NC, Music Maker's Roots and Leaves Series, a program celebrating Carrboro music legend Elizabeth Cotten, was a smashing success. Reaching over 1,250 people with music concerts on Friday nights, each performance highlighted several artists representing the music styles of the Piedmont, NC region. Strictly traditional music from each genre was featured, in addition to artists bringing those genres into the contemporary realm. Historical introductions to each show educated audiences about their local musical history and how it continues to evolve.



John Dee Holeman, New York City, 2012 © A. Greenwood

A partnership with the Jazz & Blues Foundation's "Jazz in the Schools" program has increased access to Blues and Roots music for schools and eldercare facilities in each participating artist's hometown. Music Maker artists in this program perform once a month at a school or nursing homes local to them and receive a monthly grant from the Jazz & Blues Foundation. With performance opportunities often limited for traditional artists due to lack of demand or their inability to travel, this program is essential to ensure our artists have steady income; we hope to expand the program in the coming year.

This September, Music Maker will continue its Jubilee, celebrating Piedmont string bands by providing performances at a school and after-school program near our home base in Orange County, NC. John Dee Holeman and Tim Wells of Red Rover will educate students about the string-band traditions of the region, including their origins and what they have grown into today.

This year will feature artist performances around the world, as Dr. Burt travels to France in November, Pura Fé Trio and Charly Lowry perform at the Lincoln Center in July, and Ironing Board Sam performs in Switzerland in September and on the Blues Cruise in October, to name a few.



# ★ Artist Notes

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**Captain Luke's** car was stolen and recovered ★ **Boo Hanks** and **Dom Flemons** went on tour ★ **Pura Fé Trio** and **Askhareen** both performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City ★ **Lee Gates, Beverly Watkins, Sweet Betty,** and **Ironing Board Sam** all moved this year. Housewarming presents welcome, please contact us for mailing addresses ★ **Adolphus Bell** is still recovering and hoping to get back on the road soon ★ Music Maker launched a new website ★ **Drink Small** returned to the Apollo, and has recently lost his vision ★ **John Dee Holeman** and **Essie Mae Brooks** performed at the Apollo Theatre in May as part of the Jazz Foundation of America's "A Great Night in Harlem" ★ **Ironing Board Sam** lost and recovered his wallet from a cab driver at the Las Vegas Airport ★ **Ironing Board Sam** was outfitted with a sticker, a new keyboard, and a gold suit that he debuted at the New Orleans Jazzfest to a capacity crowd in the Blues Tent ★ **Little Freddie King, Leyla McCalla, The Carolina Chocolate Drops,** and **Guitar Lightnin' Lee** also performed sets at Jazzfest in 2012 ★ **Lakota John and Kin,** Lumbee Nation Indians from Robeson County, have worked up a family band show leaving their living room for stages around North Carolina and beyond ★ **Robert Lee Coleman** was gifted a guitar by electric guitar pioneer Paul Reed Smith ★ Filmmaker Tom Ciaburri completed a series of shorts featuring Music Maker Artists ★ Music Maker's studio moved to the Hi-Ho district of Hillsborough ★ Music Maker completed a successful outdoor music series at Southern Village funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts ★ **Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Whistlin' Britches, Joe Thompson** and **Calvin "Dogman" Blackman** joined the Silent Strings ★ **Captain Luke** and **Cool John Ferguson** performed together seven times over the past year ★ **Ironing Board Sam** and **Big Ron Hunter** each brought their blues to the North Dakota Museum of Art ★ Next Gen artists **The Carolina Chocolate Drops** music video for their song "Country Girl" appeared in the top five on CMT. The video featured cameos by **Captain Luke, John Dee Holeman, Big Ron Hunter, Ironing Board Sam,** and **Boo Hanks** ★ **Lee Gates** was featured in Living Blues Magazine. The retrospective of his life in music was written by blues journalist Gene Tomko ★ **Pura Fé** had a three month residency at the University of Toronto. She performed at the University twice with her students to great acclaim ★ **Pat "Mother Blues" Cohen** went on two tours of France, one with MM artist **Pat Wilder** ★ **Captain Luke** and **Big Ron Hunter's** original song was featured as a part of "Tobacco Project," an art installation at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts by Chinese artist Xu Bing ★ The nationally recognized North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble collaborated with several MM artists, including **Ironing Board Sam** and **John Dee Holeman,** on a rousing show sharing music across generations ★ **Big Ron Hunter** received the Forsythe County Entertainment Award for R&B Artist ★ Music Maker Artists **Big Ron Hunter, Whistlin' Britches, Boo Hanks, Pat "Mother Blues" Cohen, Captain Luke, Leyla McCalla, Pura Fé, Layla** and **Tonya Locklear** were featured in an hour long radio documentary on ABC produced by Australian journalist Shevonne Hunt ★ **Ironing Board Sam** was named the 2012 Living Blues Comeback Artist of the Year ★





Cedell Davis © T. Duffy



## Ask Aaron

**Q: Aaron, you travelled with John Dee Holeman and Essie Mae Brooks to their gig at the Apollo Theatre in New York City as part of the Jazz Foundation's "A Great Night In Harlem." What did they think of their experience?**

**A:** Spending two days in New York City with John Dee, his girlfriend Joan, Essie Mae Brooks, and her daughter Phoeby was great fun. Thanks to the Jazz Foundation for the invitation and for taking such good care of us. Essie Mae and Joan had some interesting things to say about the experience:

"This was the largest crowd I ever sung to. I've sung for large crowds but that was the most. When I looked around and saw all those people, well, my granddaughter told me 'When you go up to New York City and sing before that crowd, you gonna get nervous,' but I didn't get nervous. When you sing solo at funerals in front of a bunch of crying people and right there in front of a dead person, when you've been doing that for so many years, you don't get nervous."

-Essie Mae Brooks

"John Dee told me to have a big meal before I got on the plane. He told me there wouldn't be a decent thing to eat once I got to the city and he was right!"

- Joan Bagley

## ★ Interns

Music Maker has had some wonderful interns since the beginning of 2012! This spring Christie Ray Harrison, a senior at UNC Chapel Hill, joined MM along with previous intern Matthew Dailey, a graduate student at the UNC School of Library Sciences. Christie Ray completed designs and artwork for six albums while at MM before taking off for Seattle to intern at World Vision. Matt is here again this summer, helping us with our digital archive, and he completed his Masters paper on implementing a The Archivist Toolkit at MM.

This summer we have a house full of great interns as well: Michael Capodiferro, a junior at Hampshire College, Jeremy Johnston, also a junior at Hampshire, and Maggie Morrissey, a recent graduate of UNC Chapel Hill are all working on various projects including designing CD artwork, cataloging the audio archive, and developing narratives about MM artists.



Returning Intern, Matt Dailey 2012 © A. Greenhood



Little Freddie King, New Orleans, LA 2011 © Gregg Roth

# ★ Artist Feature



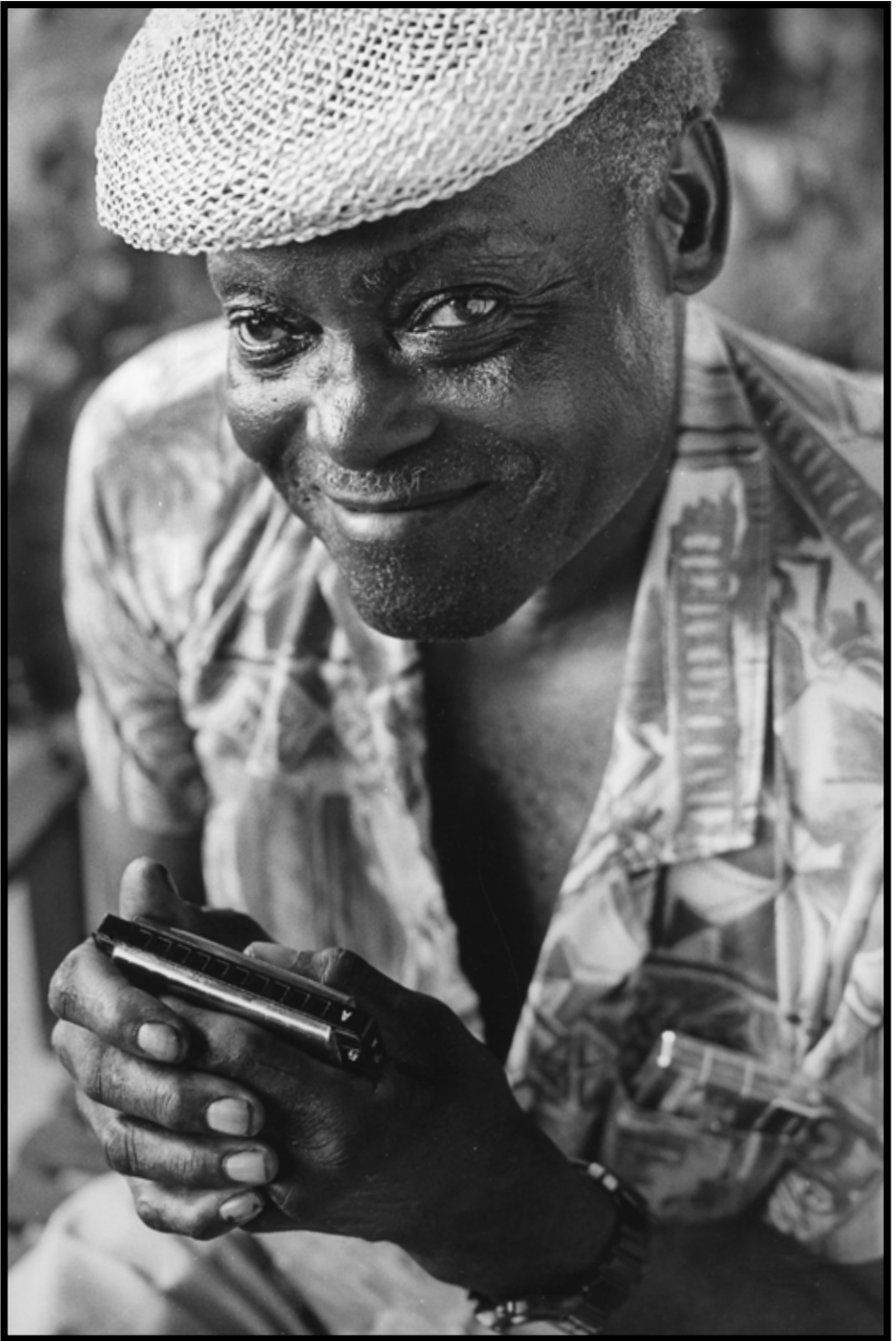
Dom Flemons and Boo Hanks, Buffalo Junction, VA 2012 © T. Duffy

When Music Maker supporter Tony Young brought Boo Hanks to Music Maker's offices in 2006, 79-year-old Boo had been playing the blues for nearly seven decades, first learning Piedmont-style guitar from his father and listening to Blind Boy Fuller on a gramophone. Like his father before him, Boo used music to pass the time during long nights of tobacco curing and to entertain at local corn shuckings, church cake walks, and house parties. Until meeting Tim Duffy, Boo had never been heard outside of his home community near the North Carolina-Virginia line.

Dom Flemons was at the Music Maker office when Boo first knocked on the door, and the two developed a friendship, musical partnership, and mentorship that began with that first jam session. Six years later, after Dom won a Grammy with the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Boo's performance opportunities had expanded to include venues such as the Lincoln Center, their collaborative album was released. Buffalo Junction, named for Boo's hometown, highlights Boo on the guitar and vocals, while Dom plays a variety of traditional instruments to accompany him. The *Illinois Entertainer* called Buffalo Junction, "Fascinating, important, a singular musical experience, and required listening for blues, folk, and musical history fans alike featuring dazzling picking."

In August 2012, Boo & Dom headed out on tour to promote their album. Crowds in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Galax, VA were treated to live performances that demonstrated the passing of the torch from veteran Piedmont bluesman Boo to an artist like Dom, who is poised to carry the sound into this new century.

Boo and Dom have a mutual understanding based in the traditions of the American South that cements their friendship and musical connection. While Dom will continue touring the world with the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Boo will continue to record and play venues with Music Maker, if you're up in Virginia, you might catch them on Boo's front steps, playing the bones (Dom) and the guitar (Boo) just for the fun of it.



George Higgs, Tarrboro, NC © T. Duffy

# ★ Thanks for your support

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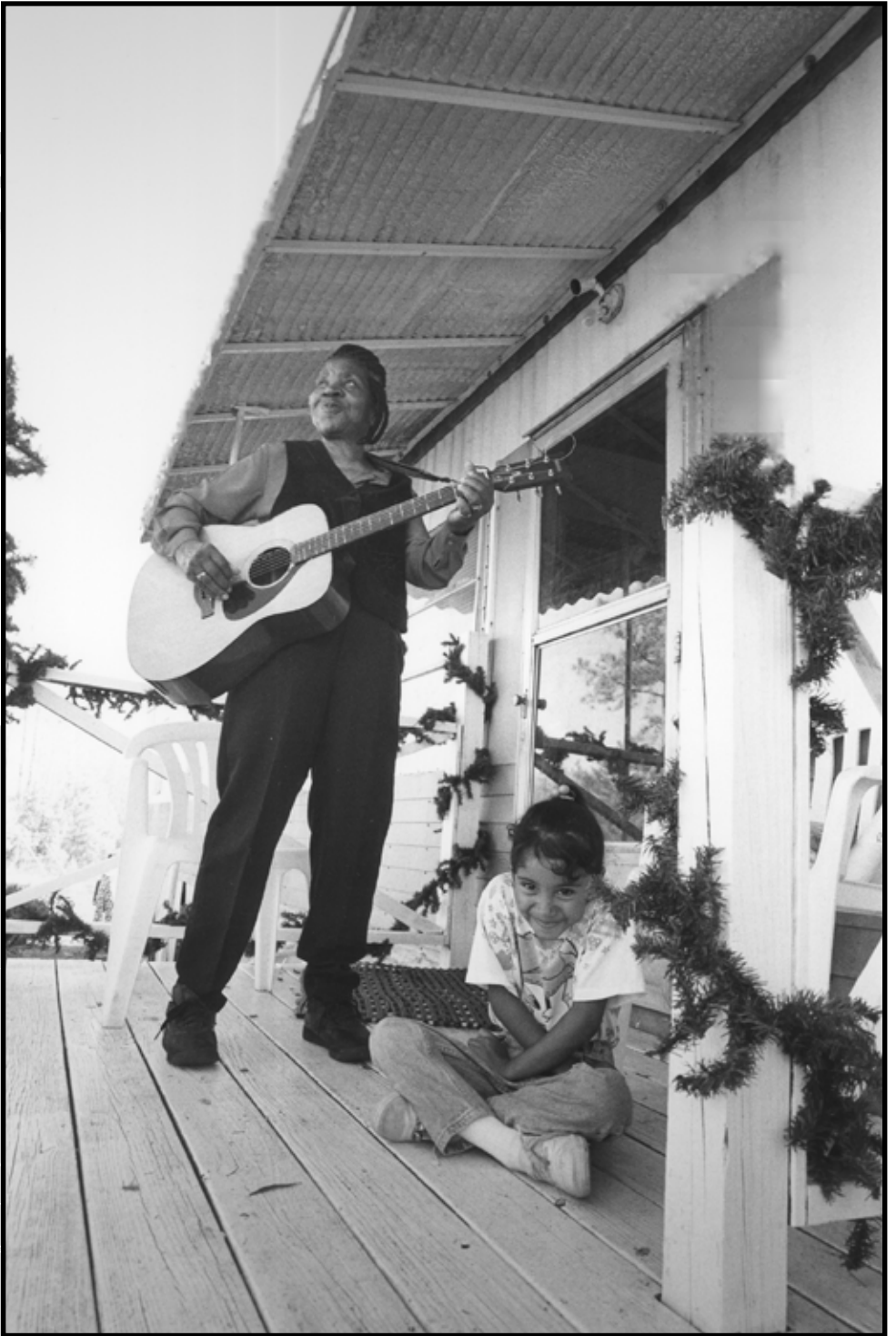
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Boo Hanks signing autographs at Roots and Leaves, Chapel Hill, NC 2012 © C. Lewis

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