

Preserving Music by Preserving Musicians

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Musician Sustenance - grants to meet basic life needs and emergency relief.
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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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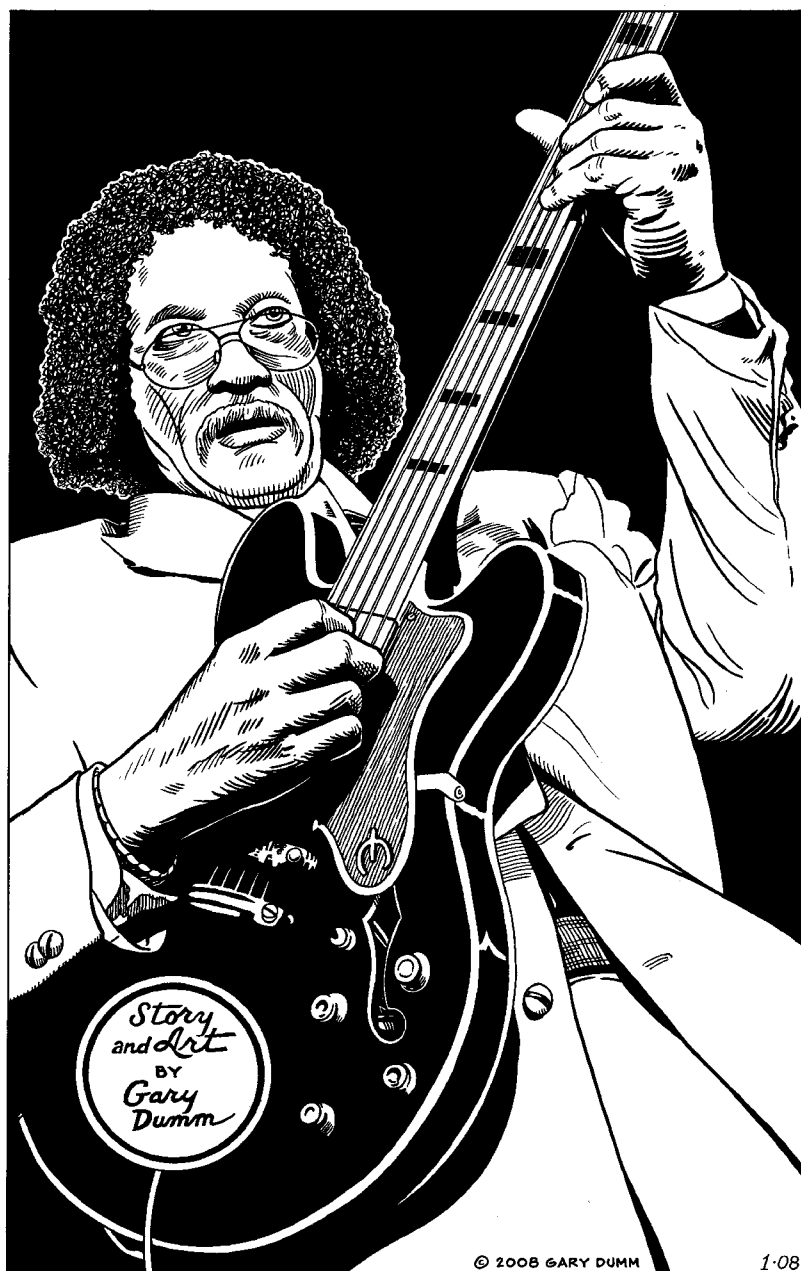
Winter 2008

"I DON'T KNOW OF ANY YOUNG BLACK GUYS PLAYING THE BLUES. THE OLDER BLACK GUYS ARE THE ONLY ONES PLAYING IT AND, AFTER A WHILE... WHEN WE'RE GONE, THE BLUES WILL BE DEAD."

LEE GATES

BORN IN PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI ON DECEMBER 20, 1937, LEE GATES GREW UP PLAYING COUNTRY BLUES INFLUENCED BY BOTH OF HIS GUITAR-PLAYING PARENTS. DURING THE FIFTIES THE MUSIC OF B.B. KING CAUGHT HIS EAR, AND IN 1959 LEE HEADED TO MILWAUKEE WHERE HE BECAME A CONSISTANT BLUES DRAW ON THE CLUB SCENE THERE.

IN 2003 OVERNIGHT SUCCESS STRUCK AND HE STARTED HIS RECORDING CAREER AFTER ONLY 50 PLUS YEARS OF SINGING AND PLAYING. HIS BLUES GUITAR LICKS RECORDED ON CD ARE CRISP AND STINGING WITH AN IMAGINATIVE EMOTIONAL INTENSITY, WHILE HIS RAW, SLURRED VOCALS REMIND ONE OF A DANGEROUS BAR HABITUE WHO ONLY ACTS DRUNK WHILE WAITING FOR YOU TO DROP YOUR GUARD. PERSISTENT GATES HAS ENDURED, PAID HIS DUES, AND NOW'S THE TIME TO GIVE AN UNGUARDED LISTEN TO HIS 'LIVING BLUES.'



M I S S I O N

Preserving Music by Preserving Musicians

Dear Friends,

2007 was remarkable! Music Maker artists traveled to France, Germany, Argentina, Spain, Serbia and Turkey. In 2008 artists will perform in Australia, Tasmania, England, Holland, France, Germany and Spain. It is inspiring to receive support from people from so many cultures. Music truly brings people together.

The Carolina Chocolate Drops continue on their amazing journey and have already hit the road, traveling the East Coast, Mid West, West Coast, and Alaska in January and February and then on to their first European tour. It is very exciting to witness such success and Music Maker having such dynamic ambassadors.

Music Maker recording artist Dave McGrew flew out from Washington State to remodel our new offices in Hillsborough, NC. He completely stripped the inside. We are updating the electric, installing large windows, putting up sheet rock and a new floor. This will be an amazing space! We have a good size lot and in the near future we hope to construct our own performance venue for special events.

The building has been a commercial site for over 100 years, starting as a store and was a drink house for the last 20 years. To celebrate

our new home base we had our New Years Party in the building. Everyone had a terrific time! We are excited about our new center.

The purchase of the building was made possible by a federal grant procured by NC Congressman David Price. MM used the grant for the down payment and took a loan for the rest and some more to make improvements. We will be raising funds in the coming years to pay for all of this and anyone who wishes to jump in and help us now, please feel free to donate or call and see how they can help.

Amy Weaver, our Programs Coordinator of five years is leaving her post to work as the Membership Coordinator at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University. We are very proud that Amy can pursue her interest in Contemporary Art. She has been a trusted friend to so many artists and helped them through times of crisis. True to her utmost dedication to our mission, she recruited Mark Coltrain, a terrific person with tremendous qualifications to carry on her work. Mark was an intern here at Music Maker during his undergraduate studies at UNC Greensboro. He pursued his love of Southern music with an MA degree in Southern Studies at Ole Miss, where he also worked for Living Blues Magazine. While in Mississippi, he continued

as a Music Maker volunteer caring for Jessie Mae Hemphill in her last days. Please join us in welcoming Mark to our staff.

We thank everyone that donated to Music Maker in 2007. We are very grateful for the support that is given to us from donors throughout the world. So we begin a new year. We look forward to all of the challenges that we face. Thank-you all again for supporting MMRF!!

With warm regards,



Timothy & Denise Duffy



Dave McGrew ©Duffy

Music Maker Notes | Highlights of 2007

The **Carolina Chocolate Drops** toured close to 200 shows, and were in Paste Magazine's Top 50 CDs, and became Music Maker's first established National Act!

Cora Mae Bryant called the other night. She is now 82 and remains paralyzed from her stroke. She regained her ability to talk and is continually making up new blues songs. She wanted to know when her next CD would be coming out (she has 2 more in already recorded). Cora Mae thanked all the people that support MMRF; she thanks God for the help MM sends her each month.

Boo Hanks, Macavine Hayes and **Eddie Kirkland** are performing as the Music Maker Blues Revue on May 1st, at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

Boo Hanks recorded his 1st CD and 1st public shows at 80 years of age.

Drink Small checked in by phone on Jan 17th. He sends New Year's greetings to all and he played us his new song called "Corn Bread, Collard Greens, Chit'lins and Hog Maw." Drink Small says, "Life longevity doesn't affect my creativity. I'm trying to survive at 75. It's 2008 and I'm trying to get it straight." He has a birthday celebration starting January 28th and he wants it to last all year long. Send greetings to: Drink Small 2926 Truman St, Columbia, SC 29204

Dixie Frog Records issues recordings of Music Maker Artists and makes top selling, award winning Blues Records with in France.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins won the Academy of Jazz Award in France for Best Blues Album.

The **Blues Music Foundation** awarded MMRF a grant of \$25,000 to compete a documentary film about the foundation and our artists. Look for a premiere in the late spring or early summer.

Pura Fé with **Danny Godinez** performed 70 shows in Europe. The Music Maker Revue toured Argentina, Germany, France and Spain.

We've updated our website: we now have all our newsletters online, as well as the comics by **Gary Dumm** that grace the cover of our newsletters. We also updated our artist roster adding **Boo Hanks, The Branchettes, Dom Flemons, Ron Hunter, James Davis, Rufus McKenzie, W.C. Minger, Paul Duffy, The Keever's Longhouse Singers, David Butler, Marie Manning, Robert Thomas, Jahue Rorie, Pete Witcher, William Maxwell and Dr. G.B. Burt**. Go and explore the musicians Music Maker is helping; listen to their **MP3s** and learn more about the work your donations are helping to support.

Nashville, TN-based photographer **Gregg Roth** called and asked if he could donate photos of artists to Music Maker. After shooting **Dr. G.B. Burt**, Gregg called MMRF and told us it was the most inspiring day of his life.

Singer/songwriter **Slewfoot** of New Orleans, LA has been doing steady shows with **Alabama Slim**. Slewfoot is in need of a new computer to help pursue more performance opportunities. Please call us if you can help.

Little Freddie King and Alabama Slim moved back to their beloved home city of New Orleans. Little Freddie King is now a resident of the Musician's Village pioneered by Winton Marsalis and Harry Connick Jr.

The Music Maker Blues Revue featuring **Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Lil' Joe Burton, Tommy Brown, Albert White, Pura Fe, Eddie Tigner, Dr. G.W. Burt, Ardie Dean, Sol and Tim** and Sam Duffy will perform at the Byron Bay Blues Festival in Australia this Easter.

The **Music Maker Blues Revue** will perform at the **Tasmania Royal Botanical Gardens** with John Fogerty and Keith Urban for a very small crowd of 8,000. This Revue will also be at the Byron Bay Roots and Blues Festival with acts such as Sinead O'Conner, The Black Crowes, Don McClean and Buddy Guy. Check out <http://www.bluesfest.com.au/>!

Built for the Blues was hugely successful! The home was on the market less than a month and sold in late December to a couple from Raleigh. The builder hopes to do it again next year.

The **Jazz Foundation of America** reached out to Music Maker and helped John Dee Holeman buy a lift to help get his invalid wife out of bed, helped a very ill Skeeter Brandon with rent and Boo Hanks with a beautiful 60s vintage Guild guitar! Please join us in thanking them for their terrific staff of social workers and for sharing their resources.

Neale Albert of New York bought a beautiful Gibson 335 electric guitar for bluesman Albert White of Atlanta, Georgia. We thank **Lora Moinkoff** of Gibson Guitars for arranging a wonderful discount on this incredible instrument.



The Carolina Chocolate Drops are making history! © B. DeBoer

Adolphus Bell, the legendary one-man band from Birmingham is a worldwide sensation! He toured Argentina, Germany, Spain, France, Costa Rica, Turkey, and Serbia in 2007 and will be going again this year!

Adolphus also introduced us to bluesman **Dr. G.B. Burt** of Birmingham, AL. The good Dr. stands over 7 feet tall and is an incredible singer and a fine 12-string guitarist. We helped him get a passport and his first gig with MM will be as part our revue that will tour Australia this Easter.

MMRF helped **Precious Bryant** get her phone reconnected, get a cane, and a generous donor sponsored her in the Feed an Artist for a full year!

Whistlin' Britches was able to rehabilitate from a leg amputation, and is now able to walk with the help of a walker or cane. To maintain his health, he now lives in an assisted living facility. He is out performing again, and feeling good!

Board Member, **Ryan Costello** booked the Kennedy Center for this year's 5th Annual Congressional Blues Festival in April.

Music Maker released 13 new CDs in the US and 4 in France.

The **North Carolina Arts Council** awarded MM a grant to record a new CD for **Captain Luke**.

George Higgs is doing well and has moved his dialysis appointments so he is free to perform on the weekends.

Ron Hunter a bluesman from Winston-Salem joined the Music Maker artist roster and traveled to Maine with Taj Mahal Trio bassist Bill Rich and Dave Keyes to record a new album with producer Ardie Dean.



We celebrated New Years at the new Music Maker building in Hillsborough, NC. We were joined by many friends including Dr. Glenn Hinson, furthest right, who introduced Tim Duffy to bluesman, James "Guitar Slim" Stephens, while he was a grad student at UNC-CH - a connection that led to the creation of MMRF. Top left to right, Tony Young, Boo Hanks, John Dee Holeman, Lee Gates, Sam Duffy, Dan Duffy, Dom Flemons, Mark Coltrain, Glen Hinson, Amy Bauman, Next Row: Lindsey Strickland, Noah Long, Karen Duffy, Denise Duffy, Lucas Duffy, Crystal Fisher, Next Row: Dave McGrew, Ashton and Kristin Kagienski, Jazmine Fisher, Last Row: Macavine Hayes, Lilla Duffy, Tim Duffy, Sara Waters, Amy and Bill Weaver ©Mark Austin

Reviews

by: Richard Marcus | from blogcritics.com



Various Music Maker Relief Performers - Blues, Sweet Blues

This year [MMRF came] out with "Blues; Sweet Blues," a two disc set that features the talents of those who have been recorded and are still recording with the Music Maker Fund. Unfortunately, the only reason most people stop recording with Music Maker is that they have passed on or their health has failed them. But, while people like Guitar Gabriel, Etta Baker, and a few others are no longer around we at least have their music to remind us of what they meant to the world.

I've raved about the voice of Captain Luke on other occasions, but that's not going to stop me from doing it again. It's just so rare to hear a pure baritone anymore that hearing him sing for the first time can stop you cold. Tim Duffy once described how Captain Luke came out on stage in Argentina, in front of thousands of people, and the second he began singing you could hear a pin drop.

Sitting on stage in his chair with just a single guitar for accompaniment, this deceptively frail looking elderly gentleman opens his mouth and something amazing happens. With seemingly no effort on his part at all the room fills with the sound of a lush summer twilight as the sky turns that particular shade of dark sapphire blue. Captain Luke's is easily the most amazing sounding voice I've heard in ages.

Of course, he's not the only one on the discs, but he certainly is a highlight. He's joined on the first song, "Let The Good Times Roll", by Willa Mae Buckner, and the late Cooties Stark, and the second song he goes it solo on "One Of These Days". Then there's Drink Small singing his creation "President Clinton Blues" who's followed by...if I'm not careful I'll just end up naming all the songs on both discs. Every one of them are important and good for their own reasons, but I guess you'll just have to follow the link above to the Music Maker's site and buy yourself a copy if you want to hear how good they are.

Tim Duffy and Denise Duffy might not have had any real idea of what they wanted to do initially aside from helping out some musicians who they liked and believed deserved better hands than what fate had dealt them. However, it's almost like the music was waiting for someone to come along and take an interest. The overwhelmingly positive response from audiences all over the world is proof of that. The Music Makers Foundation has done all of us a valuable service – not just the artists it represents.

Without Tim and Denise Duffy the world would have missed out on some truly amazing music and performers. If you have a few extra dollars this year you might want to consider sending it their way. There's always more they can be doing to help somebody out, and new music to be recorded as well.



Pura Fe' - Hold The Rain

Pura Fe' Crescioni (most often simply referred to as Pura Fe') a mixed blood Tuscarora, Deer Clan on her mother's side and Spanish on her father's, she grew up in New York City. She is the seventh generation of successive families of seven sisters; all of who are singers. On the enhanced portion of her most recent CD Hold The

Rain, released by the Music Maker Relief Foundation, there is a video interview with her. In it, she talks about her memories of growing up with her mother and Aunts singing all the time. As the Tuscarora are



Ron Hunter, Captain Luke and Macavine Hayes were all disciples of the late Guitar Gabriel. It was Ron who led the family to MM who created the Built for the Blues program. Clemmons, NC ©Duffy

matrilineal, it's only natural that she'd follow in the footsteps of these women and sing.

Initially she focused her energies primarily on performing traditional native music with the women's acappella trio Ulali. Somewhere along the line, she began feeling the pull of her roots and ended up in the ancestral territory of North Carolina. It didn't take her very long to understand the unique cross-pollination that music had experienced in this part of the world, traditional Native music and the African American Blues of the Carolinas.

We're not just talking about modern times either, but a cultural exchange that's been ongoing since the two people first had contact. Unlike European history where first contact with Native people refers to Europeans only, the oral histories of the Tuscarora and other nations speak of trade between the Americas and Africa long before the Santa Maria made a wrong turn at Albuquerque and ended up in the Bahamas instead of India. The logic of sailing due West when you wanted to go South/East has always escaped me, but somehow a guy who didn't know how to navigate became a famous explorer.

Whatever the heritage or the roots of the music Pura Fe' plays she has a voice that could call the birds from the skies and rains from the clouds. For starters, her range is phenomenal; a low throaty bass growl, that I'm sure could make the earth tremble with enough volume. Her high notes are as pure and clean as the sound of an iced over lake singing on the coldest, stillest morning of winter as the sun is gently kissing the earth's surface.

If that sounds unreasonably poetic, I only ask you to reserve your judgment on my flights of fancy and sanity, until after you've listened to her. Of course, she can also play a mean lap – slide guitar, and uses a beautiful Hawaiian steel string that she makes sing. But on Hold The Rain she's overshadowed, and I'm sure she would be the first to admit this, by her lead guitar player Danny Godinez.

Pura Fé' refers to him as Seattle's best guitar player, and that's not hard to believe after listening to him play. He plays acoustic guitar and makes it sound just as exciting as almost anybody else playing an electric guitar. Not only are his leads wonderful, he also provides the perfect support to Pura Fé's bottleneck slide. I think once people get a chance to hear him play on this CD, Seattle won't be allowed to keep him hidden away much longer.

As for the music on the disc, the songs are a great mixture of the modern and the traditional both in content and in style. The opening is a short piece performed by the drum Pura Fé' sings with; The Deer Clan Singers, but as the echo from that is still resounding within your head, "If I Was Your Guitar" begins.

I first heard a version of this on a Music Maker's compilation disc where she dedicated it to Cool John Ferguson a, very sure fingered guitar player, and the innuendo of the words was hilarious. Not much has changed about the song since then, except that she's added a couple of voiceovers that will make you pee your pants laughing if you're not careful.

Personally, the highlight of the disc is her version of the old Gershwin tune "Summertime" from the opera Porgy and Bess. I've always loved the song, and her adaptation, with an up-tempo, bluesy, second verse is great. It captures the true essence of the song without being welded to the original version.

Pura Fé' is one of the living treasures of the South, and in her music she captures two of the significant cultures from the Carolinas; African American and Native American.

But this isn't some dusty anthropological recording; it's a living, breathing, and vibrant slice of music that's alive and kicking. Hold The Rain is a great album, by a great performer. The only regret you might have in picking up on this disc is that it ends too early. Ah well, you can't have everything, but sometime what you do get is pretty good.



Pura Fé invited Tim Duffy to the Tuscarora Nation to record the Deer Clan Singers. From left to right, Mark Deese, Jennifer Kreisberg, David Locklear, Pura Fé and Chad Locklear. musicmaker.org Page 3

Get ready to Rock the House and the Senate...



April 22 & 23

South Plaza at The Kennedy Center,

Washington D.C. | Artists to be announced

Turkish Daily News

December 8-9 | Culture and Arts | Weekend, December 8-9, 2007

Adolphus Bell tours Turkey

The 18th Efs Pilsend Blues Festival, which aims to reach smaller cities in Turkey, comes to an end after a month. The jazz artists John Primer, Adolphus Bell and Bernard Allison enjoyed and admired the big audiences.

The 18th Efes Pilsen Blues Festival, which has taken international blues veterans on a tour all over Turkey since Nov. 2, ends this week with final concerts in Istanbul and Tekirdag.

The festival, whose mission is to brighten and "jazz up" the smaller cities of Turkey, began with a performance in Samsun. It also aims to tour blues veterans around the country. This year's festival featured jazz artists John Primer, Adolphus Bell and Bernard Allison. Giving audiences a taste of the glorious history of blues, Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Guitar Shorty and Joe Louis Walker were among the ones to tour with the festival in the last 18 years.

This year's opening act was no exception to the festival's reputation. Adolphus Bell, 63, calls himself a one-man band. "I am 63 and I am ready to go," said Bell, adding, "this music thing is no joke. You have got to dedicate yourself to it or leave it along. I have dedicated my life to it. It is my life. It is my gift."

After Bell's admirable performance, John Primer took stage with his rocking tunes. A master storyteller and songwriter, his oeuvre is endless. Bernard Allison, son of the famous Luther Allison, followed primer. Allison, former guitarist of the legendary "Muddy Waters," started playing jazz in his high school jazz band and now has a blues band called, "The Real Deal Blues Band."

"The Blues is my roots. Regardless of how far outside of the blues I reach for tones, I can't ever leave the blues. Whenever I play, all those guitar parts are Luther Allison coming through me. My dad was the same way; he wasn't all blues. HE loved Otis Redding and Chuck Berry," said Allison.

The audience in Turkey is one of the best ones I have ever experienced, Allison said at a conference at Bogazici University, adding that Turkish people are open to all kinds of music. "The Efes Pilsen Blues Festival is the best blues festival on earth," said Allison after a short performance with Primer and Bell.

The Blues train was caught in many cities now the sound of this sorrowful but entertaining music has come to Istanbul. The first performance of the three legendary blues artists was Friday, and Saturday they will perform at the Lutfi Kirdar International Congress and Exhibition Center. The concerts starts at 7:30 p.m.

The festival visited Trabzon, Erzurum, Kibris, Antalya, Denizli, Konya, Kayseri, Mersin, Adana, Gaziantep, Diyarbakir, Ankara, Eskisehir, Bursa, Izmir, Çanakkale, and Kocaeli since Nov. 2. After concerts in Istanbul, the festival will end Dec. 11 at Tekirdag's Erguvan Social Facilities.



Adolphus Bell had been living in a van for 15 years when he joined Music Maker. He now has his own apartment and tours the world. ©Brandon Miranda

Ask Amy

Do you have a question for Music Maker? Ask us at info@musicmaker.org.



I was looking over your website, and was excited to see all the new artists up on your artist roster page. While I was listening to MP3s I discovered a great artist by the name of Dr. G.B. Burt. Can you tell me more about him?

-Crystal Fox, Aberdeen, NC

Thanks so much for your interest, Crystal. Dr. G.B. Burt is a great bluesman out of Birmingham, Alabama. Tim Duffy recalls, "Adolphus Bell introduced me to Dr. G.B. Burt and handed me a press photo and a cassette of his music. Upon putting it on and listening I was stunned by the deep blues of his guitar playing and his heart felt vocals. Hearing this music again I realized how many great unheard blues artists are alive today."

Dr. Burt was born in Birmingham, Alabama. He comes from a musical family, and grew up with his mother playing the piano and singing gospel songs: his father and uncles were all blues guitar players, he's been playing the blues every since his teens.

Dr. G.B. Burt states: "The blues is my life, to tell you the truth. It is what I have lived and what I have seen. It is real life. Love, rejected love. There is happy blues, sad blues, it is just the life. It is what I am about. I put them in my songs and music. I look at things whatever is going on and sing about it. I have been playing for a long time, I laid my guitars down for five years. I started looking at my five boys and something told me that I had to show them about this music. Now I got my boys trained and they are good. They are working getting their music together. My grandbaby's now are into the music. We are all working for the music. I believe this music is important. When folks hear my music they know it is me. I sing how I feel. I do not sing about violence. I sing about love. I do everything I can do to sing about good things. It comes out alright. I am looking forward, to get my name in the record book, and do what I can do to help my sons and my family. I want the audiences to know who I am. I want to put my stamp on this music, get my name in the book, so people remember who I am."

Music Maker is excited about meeting Dr. G.B. Burt and traveling with him to Australia to play the East Coast Blues and Music Festival in Byron Bay Festival and Southern Roots Tasmania.



Dr. G.B. Burt, Birmingham, AL

©Gregg Roth

6th Annual Fishin' Blues Festival

SOLD OUT!!!

February 10th-16th, 2008, Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica



For 6 years running, the Music Maker Relief Foundation has brought together two of the best things in life: sportfishin' and blues for a phenomenal week of fun and music to raise awareness for funds for our programs to aid Southern musicians. Reserve your spot early, as we are limited to 30 fishermen. Participants will stay at world renowned The Zancudo Lodge, where over 60 I.G.F.A records have been set. For more information call Denise or Tim Duffy at 919-643-2456 anytime or email denise@musicmaker.org. The entire fee of \$5,975 (\$2,250 tax deductible) per fishermen.

We wish to thank Charlie Adams, Bill Boone, Joe Capeletti, Ed Carson, Timothy Doyle, Scott Field, Tom Fisher (raffle winner), Jeff Kilroy, Alex Marshall, Alan Mayfield, Brian McBride, Mike Narduli, Rebecca Narduli, Henry Slyker, Hank Slyker, Sean Sullivan, Willie Suter, Steve Sweitzer, Hal White and Terry Woodruff for joining our 6th Annual Music Maker Fishin' Blues Tourney!

February 10th, 2008 – Travel to Zancudo
 11th – Fishin'
 12th Fishin'
 13th – Fishin' and Awards dinner,
 14th – Concert
 (optional touring, beach party or more Fishin')
 15th – Travel to San José,
 16th – Depart for home

fishinblues.com • fishin@musicmaker.org • 919-643-2456

all CDs \$12 • shipping is \$5 per address / \$15 for international • donations@musicmaker.org • 919-643-2456



Little Pink Anderson • Carolina Bluesman • Masterful country blues guitar player and soulful vocals.

Etta Baker • Railroad Bill • A set of timeless beauty!

Etta Baker with Taj Mahal • This set includes duets with Taj Mahal plus all of her classic 1956 recordings.

Etta Baker & Cora Phillips • Carolina Breakdown • Recorded in late 80s when Etta was in her prime.

Adolphus Bell • One Man Band House • Rockin' Foot Stompin' authentic Alabama blues!

Sweet Betty • Live and Let Live. • Sweet Betty is the finest blues singer in Atlanta.

Essie Mae Brooks • Rain in Your Life • Cool John accompanies her with light and masterful improvisations on guitar and piano.

Cora Mae Bryant • Born with the Blues • the daughter of Georgia guitar legend Curley Weaver.

Cora Mae Bryant • Born in Newton County • A stunning record featuring exceptional guitar playing.

Precious Bryant • My Name is Precious • 26 songs showcasing Precious' unique voice and charming style.

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

Carolina Chocolate Drops • Dona Got a Ramblin' • Mind 14 classic old-time tunes by this trail-blazing band!

Carolina Chocolate Drops present: Sankofa Strings: Colored Aristocracy Blues, Stringband and Jazz featuring the incredible percussion and banjo of Sule Greg Wilson with CCD members Rhianon Giddens, Justin Robinson and Dom Flemons.

Mr. Frank Edwards • Chicken Raid • A nine decade career; this was his last recording session the day of his death.

Pura Fé • Follow Your Hearts Desire • Native chanteuse Pura Fé has the voice of an angel.

Cool John Ferguson Here One of the world's finest guitarists.

Cool John Ferguson • Cool Yule • 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 Reinhart, people like that!"

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

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

Preston Fulp • Sawmill Worker • Born in 1915, Preston weaves stories of his life through both secular and sacred songs.

Lee Gates and the Alabama Cotton Kings • One must rejoice in the glorious tone of Lee's guitar.

Lee Gates • Black Lucy's Deuce • The kind of party-mad juker 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 • Venturing well beyond drink houses into his own private Birdland, an improvisational crossroads where the starkly pre-modern meets the startlingly postmodern.

Guitar Gabriel • Deep in the South • Guitar Gabriel boogies and cries heart-felt country blues in this set.

Guitar Gabriel • Toot Blues • This CD is not for the faint of heart.

Clyde Langford • High Steppin' Momma • Primitive East Texas Blues!

Capt. Luke & Cool John • Outsider Lounge Music • Deep rich baritone, singing stellar sentimental blues.

Carl Rutherford • Turn Off the Fear • Showcase his unique blend of Buck Owens-styled twang, old time gospel numbers and harrowing mining songs.

Larry Shores • Songs from T-Town • Seasoned farm-hand by 14, he plays folk music from the Northwest.

Slewfoot and the Angels • Grasshopper Pie • Diverse and original, New Orleans blues and even Hawaiian slack-key brings a new flavor Music Maker.

Slewfoot and Cary B. • Rainin' in New Orleans • Straight from the streets of New Orleans.

Slewfoot & Cary B. featuring Andrew Ross • Louisiana Time • New Release from New Orleans' Songsters.

Alabama Slim & Little Freddie King • The Mighty Flood • Haunting tale of Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath.

Sol • volume blue • Ancient truths of the blues arrive in some new place, through some new voice.

Cootie Stark • Sugar Man • Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz • Evidence that Stark was an idiosyncratic, tremendously talented musician.

Cootie Stark • Raw Sugar • Taj Mahal joins Cootie on hambone, piano, bass, harp, banjo and guitar.

Eddie Tigner • Route 66 • Exuberantly set of timeless standards.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins • Back in Business • This is a highly charged record by this powerful performer.

The Feelings of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins • Guitar woman player of her generation whose searing, ballistic attacks on the guitar are legendary.

Lightnin' Wells • Ragged but Right • Performing his Piedmont-tinged variety of American roots music for 35 years.

A Living Past • A classic recording and superb sampler of traditional blues scene in North Carolina.

Blues Came to Georgia • 15 songs illustrating the continuing vitality of grassroots blues in Georgia.

Came So Far • 18 selections by 12 astonishing blues and gospel artists.

Expressin' the Blues • 21 songs by 21 of the most talented and unsung heroes of the blues.

Music Maker with Taj Mahal • Blues legend Taj Mahal backs up MM artists on upright bass, hambone, banjo, piano and guitar.

Music Maker Treasure Box • This incredible 3 CD compilation set celebrates 38 artists and 53 tracks! Also comes with 36-page booklet. **THIS BOX SET IS \$30**

Sisters of the South • Gospel and country blues in the Piedmont style, to modern 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, previously unreleased recordings.

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-Lee Valentine Smith, Creative Loafing, Atlanta, GA

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Support Music Maker:

Your membership will help Boo Hanks get a new home



Dom Flemons and Boo Hanks are working on a new release! Buffalo Junction, VA

©Duffy

80-year-old Boo Hanks lives in a decrepit 1950s mobile home with no running water on the side of a rural highway in Buffalo Junction, Virginia. He grew up farming and to make ends meet he spent last summer driving a tractor in the tobacco fields during a record heat wave. Boo does not complain, he will tell you he likes to work and if not for his bad knee and worn out hands he would work more.

January 2007 Music Maker recorded Boo for the first time in his life. Blues critics around the world have heralded this CD and all seem to agree that Boo is the purest and finest purveyor of Blind Boy Fuller Piedmont style blues alive.

Boo was so excited about his new recording that he was selling the CDs we grant him in his neighborhood before we could even get the artwork printed. Soon after, Boo started playing local gigs, augmenting both his income and stature in his community. This December Boo recorded another CD of new songs with the help of his newfound friend Dom Flemons of the Carolina Chocolate Drops. Boo just sat down and performed 14 songs one after another, all of them perfectly and the record was made in less than two hours. Dom was awe-struck, knowing he just witnessed the work of a master. Boo just loves Dom, he is so proud that a young black musician loves his music and can play harp, jug and guitar behind him so well.

It is wintertime and tractor work is done for the season. Dom and I encourage Boo to go ahead and get a passport so he can fly to France where Music Maker can arrange performances. Boo has never been on a plane and even after much consideration he's still not sure. He asks all kind of questions about the airport, who will travel with him, where he will stay, Boo, does not want to be alone. We assure him that he should enjoy himself, see the world and we will stick right by his side.

Boo now has a passport and we are pursuing gigs for him in Europe. Boo has decided to travel and will be flying for the first time on May 1st where he will be performing at the prestigious New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

Boo still is living in an old trailer with rotting wiring heated by a kerosene heater, a very dangerous way to live. Boo does not want to move into the housing projects. The farmer he works for has offered him a place to put a trailer that already has electric and septic hook ups. Boo has found a decent used trailer to move to this spot.

The Jazz Foundation has committed a significant sum to procuring this trailer and moving it to the new lot. We are asking donors to help contribute to Music Maker so we can match their funds so Boo will have a safe place to live.

Music Maker helps artists' improve their lives and bring unheard music to the world through recordings and concerts. Your membership will help us carry on our mission of preserving music by preserving musicians.

Be a Music Maker member and help us help Boo Hanks and many other artists' in similar situations. Music Maker keeps the bluest of the blues alive!

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