Our Mission: **Preserving Music by Preserving Musicians**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- Bill Puckett
- Henry Slyker
- Mudcat
- Anne Pitts
- Bart Farrell
- Tom Meyer
- Eric Ashman
- Tim & Denise Duffy
- Dom Flemons
- Rhiannon Giddens
- Justin Robinson

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

**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.

**MUSIC MAKER STAFF**
- Timothy Duffy, Executive Director
- Denise Duffy, Managing Director
- Liz Rhine, Artist Services Coordinator

**MUSIC MAKER PHONES**
- 919-643-2456
- info@musicmaker.org

**NEWSLETTER CREDITS**
- Design, Tom & Sue McGhee
- Editorial, Tim & Denise Duffy, Liz Rhine

The Music Maker Rag is published by Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc., info@musicmaker.org; 919-643-2456; © 2009 MMRF All Rights Reserved.

**VoL15, No2 the official Newsletter of the Music Maker relief foundation faLL/WiNter 2009**

**ARTICLE:**

**CAN YOU ENVISION AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN BANJO PLAYER?**

I was introduced to a wonderful music tradition that combines African and American roots. The Carolina Chocolate Drops are based in the Carolinas, where African and African-American music traditions mixed with American folk and country traditions.

**CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS**

- Rhiannon Giddens
- Justin Robinson
- Dom Flemons
- Joe Thompson

**Musical Traditions**

- **Black music**
- **Old-Time music**
- **Traditional music**

**Tradition is not a Jailer**

We were born in the 20th century, not the 18th. Our experiences are different. It’s an older tradition informed by modern people.

**A LOT OF BLACK MUSIC, WHEN IT ORIGINATED WAS Raunchy, Raunchy, DANCE Music. BLACK PEOPLE CREATED IT, THEN BLACK PEOPLE LEFT IT AND WHITE PEOPLE HELD ONTO IT FOREVER.**

**THE MUSIC HAS ALL THE BASICS ... A GOOD FEEL THAT PUTS YOU ON YOUR FEET AND ENOUGH OF A TUNE TO SING ALONG TO.**

**AS THE EXPECTED STRINGS/OUR BAND COUNTRY MUSIC, THEY EVEN RECORDED THEIR DEBUT CD DONA gang RAILBIRD! MIND YOUR OWN AND THEN ON THE MUSIC MAKER RELIEF FOUNDATION LABEL (WHICH A ID SOUTHERN ROOTS MUSICIANS), THAN WRITING THEIR OWN SONGS AND THEIR YOUTHFUL ENERGY TO THIS OLD-TIME MUSIC THEY RECORD WITHOUT TRYING TO TWIST OR DILUTE IT ALL IN AN EFFORT TO APPEAL TO THEIR LISTENERS UP OFF THEIR SEATS AND DANCING.**

- **Open your eyes and ears**
- **Your mind (and shunt your mouth)**

- **Carolina Chocolate Drops**
- **Are Here to Stay**
- **Are A PROUD TRADITION THAT NEARLY WITHDREW AWAY, DISAPPEARING WITHIN THE RAVAGES OF TIME...**

**Copyright 2008 by Gary Dumm**
Dear Friends,

Music Maker’s mission is alive and kicking after 15 years and Guitar Gabriel is the artist that started it all. His bottomless creativity and unbounded joy in the face of poverty and illness inspired Music Maker’s founders to reach beyond the constraints of conventional thought and find new ways to shine light on this forgotten legend of Southern music.

Dixie Frog Records of France is celebrating our 15th anniversary with the release of Guitar Gabriel, the Beginning of the Music Maker Story. This lavish package chronicles the breadth and depth of the musical prowess of this Piedmont Blues genius with an 80 minute CD mined from the MM archives, most of which have never been released.

To tell the whole story, this package premieres, on a bonus DVD, the feature length documentary film TOOT BLUES by Chris Johnstone and Anna Ferrarie. This film, produced with a grant from Paul Allen and Martin Scorsese, presents the complete story of Music Maker Relief Foundation. The package also includes the wonderful short story by John Creech, entitled “The Last Bluesman.” This dynamic tale describes in delightful detail the struggles and glory of our earliest days.

Great art inspires more great art! MMRF is proud to offer you the joy and wisdom of Music Maker artists every day with a beautiful 2010 calendar. Harvey Pekar, the creator of American Splendor comics, wrote the first two MMRF comics. He introduced us to artist Gary Dumm in 2003 who has since done all the artwork and bios on these jewels. Dumm’s art has been exhibited nationally and internationally and he has worked since 1976 on Harvey Pekar’s American Splendor comic.

The Guitar Gabriel release, the TOOT BLUES film and the calendar are all part of the MMRF gift program. This holiday season, your donation is vital; as musicians grapple with the difficulties of a depressed economy and the decline of the music industry, the need for Music Maker’s programs is greater than ever. Poverty rates have been on the rise for more than 10 years and the financial crisis dramatically decreased the availability and pay of gigs. Sales of CDs are down more than 30%. We have been forced to withdraw merchandise from retail stores and can only make albums available on our website, at events and on iTunes. No one knows how people will consume music 10 years from now, but we do know that the blues will never die and that musicians will need MM’s support and advocacy as new business models emerge.

Please support these artists by making a charitable donation this year and by sharing your love of this music with friends and family through Music Maker’s holiday gifts. You can donate by mail, phone or online 24/7 at musicmaker.org. We’ll do all of the wrapping and shipping for you and include your personal message.

What started as a heartfelt effort to assist a handful of blues artists in Winston-Salem, NC has evolved into a revolutionary model of supporting artistic expression and cultural education. Your donations keep this mission alive.

Peace.

Tim & Denise Duffy
In the late 1980s, Timothy Duffy, a penniless North Carolina musicology student, set out to document and preserve traditional southern roots and blues music. On his travels from Winston-Salem's drinkhouse music scene, an off-the-grid hotbed of gritty traditional blues, to deep-south family run churches, he found purpose and inspiration from a cast of amazingly talented, pure and unique characters (the artists).

TOOT BLUES remarkably captures the true essence and talent of the artists. From Guitar Gabriel, a "homeless magic potion selling" blues genius; to Willa Mae Buckner, a snake charming elderly woman taunting delightfully raunchy blues; to Beverly 'Guitar' Watkins, a grandmother who continues to tear up the stage and play a killer electric guitar behind her head; to Bishop Dready Manning and family churning out homebrewed rockabilly-gospel; to Boo Hanks, an 80 year-old bluesman recording an album for the very first time; to blind guitarist Cootie Stark, mesmerizing crowds world-wide while never failing to find his way home by himself.

Shortly after befriending and championing for these artists, Tim quickly realized the limitations set upon them by living in poverty, not only in their struggles to survive and support their families but also their ability to afford time and outlets to continue with their deepest passions – music. By a simple twist of fate, Tim, along with his wife Denise, began the Music Maker Relief Foundation.

With rare footage, interviews, and numerous live performances, the film documents these unique musicians, bringing together through the Music Maker community and their shared and vital musical heritage.

TOOT BLUES digs deep into your heart, opening your eyes and ears to seminal musical traditions that have long been overlooked by the mainstream.

Visits to Music Maker’s studio bring blues raconteur Drink Small and Durham legend John Dee Holeman, providing an up-close look at their eclectic styles, while a late night juke-joint guitar jam by Cool John Ferguson supports this “hidden guitarist’s” worldwide reputation. The joy the artists bring to recording and touring is infectious, providing a rare window into a classic American musical form at its most grass-roots level.

You won’t see 20 mics or 200 knobs on a board in a swanky recording studio or a million dollar record deal but what you will see is something honest and truthful; amazing talents, their passion and courage, no matter what their age or disability!

2009 marks Tim and Denise Duffy’s Music Maker Relief Foundations’ 15 year anniversary of keeping the blues alive by supporting over 250 roots and blues artists with needs from food and shelter to tour support. The artists Music Maker has supported over the years represent styles as diverse as their personalities, yet together weave a rich tapestry of the roots of American music... this is their story.

TOOT BLUES was chosen as an official selection for the Backlot Film Festival, the Memphis International Film Festival & the New Orleans Film Festival.

www.tootblues.com

“They said traditional blues was dead... Tim Duffy thought he’d double check!”

“Some of the best blues comes from unlikely places, thanks to Music Maker for seeking out the real blues artists.” Derek Trucks

“I think they’re doing wonderful work and I support them for keeping not only interest in the blues alive, but the musicians themselves.” Bonnie Raitt

“Wall to wall blues from unheralded artists. The film gives a glimpse of what is being lost, and Tim Duffy’s heroic effort to document the passing. In the most humanitarian way, his foundation is bringing security and aid to these wonderful artists – whose time is gone and whose music still stirs us.” John Cohen
Andy Edmonds, Benton Flippen, Hoppin’ John Fiddlers Convention, Silk Hope, NC.

Andy Edmonds has been under the tutelage of master fiddler Benton Flippen of Mt. Airy, NC for several years. He recently visited Music Maker to record his first solo album. With our support, musical traditions will continue to flourish and be passed on to the next generation. ©T. Duffy 2009.

Dr. G. B. Burt, Birmingham, AL.

Since we met Dr. G. B. Burt in 2006, he has performed with MM in Australia, Belgium, and throughout the US and, this fall, he was featured in the Living Blues magazine. After this success, Dr. Burt began performing and lecturing about the blues and civil rights to students in his hometown of Birmingham, AL. He is an example of how recognition received by MM artists impacts rural and inner city communities all over the South by increasing the value locals place on their cultural heritage and community artists. ©D. Pearson 2009.

Macavine Hayes, Captain Luke, Winston-Salem, NC.

German photographer Axel Kustner took this wonderful photo on one of his many visits to Music Maker in the 1990s. This is the front porch of Ezelle’s Drink House, which was open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Guitar Gabriel, Captain Luke and Macavine Hayes could be found there on most weekends having fun, playing cards and playing guitar. ©A. Kustner 1995.

Dixie Frog Presents Music Maker Relief Foundation, The Last and Lost Blues Survivors on the shelves at FNAC, Paris, France.

Dixie Frog Records is France’s largest blues label, specializing in rock blues for more than 25 years. In 2006, they released their first country blues album with this terrific MM compilation CD. It was a huge success and sold 17,000 copies, leading to a series of MM releases and performance tours in Europe. ©T. Duffy 2006.

B.B. King, Tim Duffy, London.

Tim Duffy had the good fortune of traveling with B.B. King to Los Angeles, New York and London during the recording of King’s Deuces Wild album. B.B. joined our Advisory Board, listened to our recordings and encouraged MM to grow. ©T. Duffy 1995.

“Everyone loves to help someone out, and especially such wonderful artists you work with.” B.B. King
Lil’ Joe Burton, Hillsborough, NC.
Lil’ Joe Burton from Chicago is among the finest blues trombonist in the world and is known for his heart wrenching solos and high-energy performances. He began his career with the late, great Junior Wells in 1964. He toured for 10 years with B.B. King and worked with Bobby Womack, Joe Tex, Otis Clay and many others. He has appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, Midnight Special and Soul Train. When he needed a hip replacement, Music Maker provided a grant to help with this expensive surgery. Lil’ Joe made a great recovery and has since enjoyed many tours with the MM Blues Revue. ©D. Pearson 2009.

There are hundreds of artists like Joe that need the help of our programs. Please help MM grow to support more musicians in need.

Lee Gates, Roots ‘N Blues ‘N BBQ Festival, Columbia, MO.
As blues guitar legend Hubert Sumlin came off the stage at his recent performance in Columbia, MO, he greeted his old friend Lee Gates. He recollected Lee playing with Muddy Waters, Howlin’ Wolf and the great Sonny Boy Williamson. Born in Pontotoc, MS Lee is a first cousin of the blues guitar master Albert Collins. Lee is a prime example of an artist who is recognized by his musical peers but remains unknown to audiences outside of his home of Milwaukee, WI. Lee is the greatest guitar slinger we have ever worked with, check out his three CD releases on Music Maker’s online store. www.musicmakerstore.org ©T. Duffy 2009.

The Carolina Chocolate Drops, Dom Flemons, Rhiannon Giddens LaFann and Justin Robinson, Mt. Airy, NC.
Music Maker hosted the Carolina Chocolate Drops’ first CD release party at the Mt. Airy Fiddlers Convention in 2006; they have toured the world ever since. Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal sing the Drops praises for picking up the torch they have carried for decades. In January 2010, the Drops’ newest CD will be released on Nonesuch Records. As members of our Board of Directors, they spread the word to thousands about our mission. ©T. Duffy 2006.

The Rank Strangers, Dave McGrew, Pablo Menudo and Larry Shores, Terlingua, TX.
Leaving their childhood homes in the 1970’s, the Rank Strangers found work and each other as “fruit tramps” in the orchards of the Northwest where hard days of picking were capped by evening’s original song. They reunited for a Music Maker recording session in West Texas in 2007. Their depictions of labor and life on the road can be heard on Larry Shores’ Songs from T-Town and Dave McGrew’s Fruit Tramp Ballads of the Great Northwest. ©T. Duffy 2004.

Dom Flemons and Boo Hanks, Virgilina, VA.
After eight hours of driving a tractor in the tobacco fields, Boo Hanks recently recorded over two hours of country blues with Dom Flemons of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, all before supper! At 81, Boo lives on a meager income and the extra money from gigs and CDs that Music Maker provides dramatically improve his lifestyle. With the poor economy, gigs are scarce but our Sustenance Program will fill the oil tank to keep Boo warm until we can find him more work. ©T. Duffy 2009.
Pat “Mother Blues” Cohen, Ardie Dean, Roots ‘N Blues ‘N BBQ Festival Columbia, MO.

Pat was performing six nights a week on Bourbon Street until Katrina destroyed her home in the 9th Ward of New Orleans. She relocated to Salisbury, NC and is currently writing songs for her upcoming CD and performing with the Music Maker Blues Revue.
©T. Duffy 2009.

Cool John Ferguson joined MM in the move from Pinnacle, NC to the Triangle area. He was soon performing for hundreds every Saturday night at this local juke joint. These performances helped him establish the reputation as Durham’s favorite “Guitar Wizard.” His friends, Whistlin’ Britches and Captain Luke, often came from Winston-Salem to join in on the celebration. ©T. Duffy 2001.

Guitar Gabriel, Pinnacle, NC.

Guitar Gabriel was a tremendous blues artist whose humor and poetic genius continues to intrigue many. Here, he sits in front of a large painting by folk artist Sam McMillan, who incorporated Guitar’s image in many subsequent artworks. The previously unknown talents Music Maker illuminates inspire artists and musicians, young and old. ©T. Duffy 1995.

Whistlin’ Britches dancing at All Peoples Grill, Durham, NC.

Whistlin’ Britches dancing at All Peoples Grill, Durham, NC.

Cootie Stark of Greenville, SC spent his youth learning from first generation blues artists such as Walter Phelps, Blind Simmie Dooley, Chilly Wind and Baby Tate. He traveled from town to town by Greyhound bus for decades, performing on street corners for tips. Cootie got his big break at age 71, when MM got him a gig opening up for Ruth Brown and Aretha Franklin at the Newport R&B Festival in 1997. The following two years, he toured 42 U.S. cities with his new friend Taj Mahal. Cootie made several performance trips to Europe and Costa Rica before he passed in 2005. ©T. Duffy 1998.

Cora Fluker, Marion, MS.

Cora Fluker passed away in 2004; however, you can enjoy her work on Dixie Frog’s monumental album, Sisters of the South, released last year. Cora’s documentation as well as the documentation of other MM artists matters. The songs of MM artists will not be lost to our culture when they pass; a permanent archive of our work has been established at the Southern Folklife Collection at the Wilson Library at UNC Chapel Hill. ©T. Duffy 1995.
On our 15th anniversary, Music Maker Relief Foundation continues to seek out the struggling, often forgotten pioneers of traditional American roots music and offer sustenance grants for basic needs, professional development to revive careers and cultural access to audiences around the world.

Part of every dollar you spend goes directly to these artists in need. Give a gift from Music Maker to someone you care about today.

**Gift Options:** Each gift arrives festively packaged with your personal note, and includes a tax-deductible donation and a subscription to Music Maker Rag.

**$20 Gift**
Make a $20 dollar donation in a friend's name and they will also receive the Music Maker 2010 Calendar. Experience 12 Music Maker Relief Foundation musicians through comics written and drawn by Gary Dunn & Harvey Pekar. Each month highlights the talents and personality of a different artist. Dunn's work has been exhibited internationally; he has worked with Pekar, author of *American Splendor*, since 1976. PLUS, both you and your friend will receive a 1-year subscription to Music Maker Rag, our quarterly publication.

**$45 Gift**
Give Guitar Gabriel: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story CD and a bonus DVD of Toot Blues, a feature-length documentary about Music Maker Relief Foundation. PLUS the Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a 1-year subscription for you and the recipient to Music Maker Rag.

**$75 Gift**
Give Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America. This book includes a 23-track CD and a forward by B.B. King, PLUS Guitar Gabriel: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story CD, a bonus DVD of Toot Blues, the Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a 1-year subscription for you and the recipient to Music Maker Rag.

**$145 Gift**
Give a 1-year membership to the Givin' It Back Record Club, PLUS the *Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America* book, Guitar Gabriel: The Beginning of the Music Maker Story CD, a bonus DVD of Toot Blues, the Music Maker 2010 Calendar and a 1-year subscription for you and the recipient to Music Maker Rag.
Your donation gets directly to the heart of the matter.

Music Maker Relief Foundation is celebrating its 15 year anniversary. It’s a milestone in the support to hundreds over the years. Ironically, circumstances have never been tougher and we are enduring a horrible crisis given that donations are way down due to the crash in the economy.

Can you imagine? We are now in the terrible position of choosing who gets groceries and who doesn’t, or who gets medicine and who doesn’t. Music Maker Relief Foundation and its recipients have never needed the compassion and generosity of our following more. This recession has brought many who were already in need to even more brutally desperate circumstances. We’ve cut deep but without your continued support we will have to cut the lifeline our donors have afforded so many.

Please write a check today and and offer hope and respect to artists in need.

It is urgent. Thanks so much.

Tim & Denise Duffy

P.O. Box 1358, Hillsborough, NC 27278 Phone: (919) 643-2456 www.musicmaker.org

8th Annual Fishin’ Blues Tournament
February 15-20, 2010

For seven years running, the Music Maker Relief Foundation has brought together two of the best things in life: sportfishing and blues. For a phenomenal week of fun and music in order to raise funds for our programs that aid Southern musicians. Reserve your spot early, as space is limited and demand is high. Participants will stay at the world renowned Casa Vieja Lodge on Guatemala’s Pacific Coast. The entire fee is $5,275 ($2,500 tax deductible) per fisherman. For more information call the Music Maker office at 919.643.2456 call 919.643.2456, e-mail fishin@musicmaker.org or visit fishinblues.com.

ENTER THE RAFFLE!

Enter the exclusive raffle and be one of 120 Music Maker supporters to win two slots in this year’s fishin’ tournament (an $11,000 value). This is six days of fun in the Guatemalan sun. We will fish for Marlin, Sailfish, Dorado, Tuna and more by day and groove to the world’s best live blues by night. All you need to bring is your passport, shorts, sneakers, a hat and some sunscreen. Tickets are only $100. order by mail, online at musicmaker.org or by phone at 919.643.2456.

Visit www.musicmaker.org today

Fall/Winter 2009 MMRag ★ 7