

# MUSIC MAKERS RAG

The Official Newsletter of the Music Maker Relief Foundation

Fall 1999



Guitar: Gabriel Photo: Axel Küster

Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.  
Rt. 1 Box 547 Perdue, NC 27043

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## Dear Friends,

We are proud to say Music Maker is now able to offer our services to over 90 traditional musicians throughout the U.S. This has been made possible by the support of many good people who believe in our work and have kept this organization alive for over five years. Sincere thanks to all our contributors.

Cello Recordings is making blues history by issuing records with its new Music Maker Series. Thus far Cello has issued albums by Guitar Gabriel, Cootie Stark, Neal Pattman, John Dee Holman, Algia Mae Hinton, Etta Baker and Expressin' the Blues. This fall Cello will issue Beverly "Guitar" Watkins: Back in Business. Albums by Jerry "Boogie" McCain and Captain Luke with John Ferguson, Jr. will be released in January of 2000. No record label in decades has issued so many contemporary East Coast blues artists at this rate and with world-wide distribution. A substantial royalty from each album sale will be donated to the foundation. We thank Cello for all the hard work and sincere effort.

Taj Mahal remains a true friend. He has made time in his world-wide touring schedule to headline 12 more Winston Blues Revival shows in the upcoming months. All door proceeds from these events benefit MMRF. This is a tremendous fund-raising effort and the featured Music Maker artists will be performing at some our nation's great venues.

We have been most fortunate to have John Ferguson, Jr. of Beaufort, SC devote himself to our cause. John is among the greatest undiscovered guitarists in the world. He has spent four months breaking new ground, working and recording with Captain Luke. It is surely not the blues from the 30's and 40's. It is outsider lounge music. This unique combination reveals yet another side of the noble African-American conversation that we name the blues.

We wish to express our gratitude to so many people. There is not enough room to recognize everyone by name. In this Rag we try to let everyone know a little bit about our friends.

Yours Truly,

Timothy and Denise Duffy



Tim and Denise Duffy  
Pittsboro, NC  
Photo by Chris Seward

# Sweet Relief

Foundation helps keep the blues and the artists alive and well

By David Menconi, staff writer, *The News & Observer*

**PROPACLE** — Tim Duffy knows how to do more things than your average record producer. Not that he's bragging. But as the head of Music Maker Relief Foundation, he has a job that involves field work, social work, fund-raising and basic camping in addition to actually making records.

"I'm a guitar player with a social bent on folkies," Duffy says. "I'm an impresario, really I can put shows together, I'm a pretty good salesman. I'm not an official manager, but I do help my artists make decisions about their careers. I'm a foundation president, a recording engineer, a skilled photographer, decent writer, good van driver. Whatever it takes, when you're out in the bush, you learn how to make do. Like how to make rice on the beach without a pot — you use burning coals, sand, banana leaves and water."

Duffy has studied everything from out music on the Kenyan coast (which accounts for the rice trick) to hillbilly pickin' sessions in the mountains of North Carolina. But these days, with Music Maker, he's caught up in the blues.

Contrary to widespread belief, the music is not dead. But it's not exactly well, either, which is where Duffy and his wife, Denise, come in. The relief organization they run keeps authentic blues alive by helping the people who play the music stay alive. Since forming in 1994, this privately funded foundation has paid out about \$400,000 in grants to older, impoverished blues artists throughout the Southeast. There's no red tape, or strings attached.

Sometimes relief takes the form of buying somebody a guitar or paying a stipend for heart medicine, or booking a tour. Particularly worthy artists might even wind up making a record with Duffy for the Music Maker Series — there have been six titles this year, and more are on the way.

If Duffy is a music-industry Robin Hood, the difference is that he schmoozes rather than robs from the rich. He raises most of Music Maker's money from corporate sponsors including R.J. Reynolds (which underwrites the foundation's Winston Blues Revival tour) and passes it on to people in need.

More often than not, the people who need help aren't the ones asking for it. Typically, the foundation gets a tip from a third party about someone in a bind — a harmonica player in Tennessee who can't afford his prescription medication, or a guitarist in South Carolina who needs help with the rent.

The work is never-ending, but not without its small victories. A recent issue of the foundation's Music Maker Rag newsletter included a call for help for Precious Bryant, a Georgia blueswoman who lost everything in a trailer fire, as well as the welcome news that "Essie Mae Brooks' leaking roof has been fixed." Most recipients look at the foundation's help as a gift from above.

"Tim is just a wonderful, wonderful person," says Etta Baker, 86, a Morganton guitarist who has received Music Maker aid for medical care. "I dearly love him, and I highly highly appreciate the help he's given me."

## Rooted in the blues

By now, Music Maker has assisted about 100 artists, based on three points of eligibility: They must be at least 55, play music rooted in the Southern tradition and make less than \$18,000 a year. Most of these artists are in their 70s and 80s, struggling to get by on Social Security disability payments.

They are the direct musical descendants of blues giants like Blind Boy Fuller and Son House. Yet the majority have never made any money (let alone a living) from music and remain virtually unheard outside their communities — which is, Duffy believes, reason enough for him to do what he does.

"There's no popular idiom that doesn't owe something to the blues," Duffy declares. "And I'm not just talking about records here, but the cultural tradition of the African-American working class."

Music Maker is a throwback to the days of Alan Lomax in that Duffy seeks out obscure-yet-worthy artists like Coosie Stark, a blind organ musician from South Carolina, or Johnson County guitarist/bass dancer Aljo Mae Hinson. But what really sets Duffy apart is his willingness to stay involved with and help people on a long-term basis.

"You rarely find people handing these older musicians who are in it beyond getting information for their thesis or Ph.D.," says Taj Mahal, who serves as a consultant for the Music Maker series of albums. "But Tim's a different kind of guy. He has organized something sensible to help people, as opposed to waiting until they expire and doing a 'memorial' to relieve your guilt because you didn't do anything while they were still here. There are other kinds of grants and stuff, but it's usually a post-up situation — a guy dies, and everybody falls all over themselves getting his records out. I just don't believe in that."

For the most part, that's the way the music industry operates. Aside from B.B. King, Buddy Guy and a handful of others, few elderly blues artists get any attention until after they die.

"From the magazines and history books, you'd think the music was dead and gone," says Denise Duffy, who is Music Maker's treasurer. "To a degree, I think the music industry is invested in people thinking that, because it's easier. Pounding the back roads is hard work, and not as simple or sexy as some new band from L.A."

The fund-raising work on the other end is also difficult. Tim Duffy jokes that it's hard to get money out of rock stars because "they're used to

*continued on page 13*



## Music Maker Programs

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Tim Duffy, Cora Mae Bryant, Costie Stark  
Northside Tavern, Atlanta, GA  
Photo: Mark Austin

Music Maker Relief Foundation receives all of its funding from private and corporate donations. Your contributions directly support traditional musicians in their efforts to keep playing, performing and recording. All donations include a one-year subscription to the MMRF newsletter.

We offer assistance to recipient musicians through the following programs:

### **Life Maintenance**

Grants for necessities such as food, medical needs, housing, etc.

### **Instrument Acquisition**

Providing quality instruments and maintenance funds to recipient musicians.

### **Tour Support**

Funding and services to musicians wishing to tour and record.

### **Emergency Relief**

Substantial one-time grants to recipients in crisis (medical, fire, theft, etc.).

Music Maker keeps administrative costs below 20% of expenditures.

## Winston Blues Revival

All shows feature Taj Mahal, Cootie Stark, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins and Mudcat. John Dee Holeman will be featured in September, Jerry "Boogie" McCain in October and Neal Pattman in November and December.

### September 1999

- Chicago, IL • September 22 • House of Blues • (312) 933-2029 •
- Indianapolis, IN • September 24 • World Mardi Gras • (704) 483-6366 •
- Columbus, OH • September 25 • Melika • (614) 621-8860 •

### October 1999

- Los Angeles, CA • October 13 • House of Blues • (213) 848-2519 •
- Las Vegas, NV • October 15 • Motown Cafe • (702) 238-0222 •
- Phoenix, AZ • October 16 • Celebrity Theatre • (602) 267-1600 •

### November 1999

- Memphis, TN • November 17 • New Daisy Theatre • (901) 526-6931 •
- Birmingham, AL • November 19 • Five Points Music Hall • (205) 985-4900 •
- Atlanta, GA • November 20 • Cotton Club • (404) 233-8884 •

### December 1999

- Boston, MA • December 8 • Paradise Club • (617) 864-9139 •
- Stamford, CT • December 9 • Terrance Club • (203) 961-9770 •
- New York City, NY • December 11 • Irving Plaza • (212) 610-2417 •

Tickets to all shows are available through venues.  
Check the MMRF website for ticket prices and showtimes.  
21 and over please.  
All door proceeds benefit MMRF.



Taj Mahal & Tim Duffy  
Winston Blues Revival,  
New York City  
Photo: Axel Küster

## Artists Notes

Jessie Mae Hemphill is in desperate need of a new trailer. We have to raise \$20,000 to get this together. Anyone who is interested in donating towards this effort, please give us a call.

Jimmie Lee Williams is dying of cancer. His doctor has given him five months to live and has stopped the chemotherapy. His address is 1178 Doe Hill Rd., Pooler, GA 31781.

We helped Willie King of Aliceville, AL, put on the most real and rooted blues shin-dig in the universe, The Freedom Creek Festival, this past May.

D.L. Menard, the great Cajun musician, was recently featured in the Oxford American double music issue.

John Dee Holeman's picture is in the new National Resonance Catalog.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain will be a featured performer on the West Coast leg of the WBR fall tour.

We have been able to help bluesman Tommy Ridgeley of Chalmers, LA purchase medicine.

Willie Mae Buckner, Maxine Hayes, Mr. Q, Whistlin' Broches, Captain Luke and John Ferguson, Jr. all gave commanding performances at the opening of the Trade Street Series in Winston-Salem this past July.

We were able to provide publicity photos for Algie Mae Henson and Sam Turner Stevens.

We met Luther Jackson in Phoenix AZ, at the Winston Blues Revival. We were able to help him fix the broken windshield of his car.

Henry "Hojo" Thompson, also from Phoenix, AZ, has been provided help with some prescription medicine.

Ardie Dean, Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Denise Duffy  
Atlanta, GA  
Photo: Mark Austin



The Hideout, a club in Chicago, hosted a blues show for Maxwell Street Musicians during this year's Chicago Blues Fest. MMRF issued performance grants to Robert Perkins-The Dancing Bass Player, Little Pat Rushing, Smiling Bobby Smith and Down-Home Hazel.



Captain Luke  
Northside Salem, Atlanta, GA  
Photo: Tim Duffy



"Birmingham" George Connor  
Aliceville, AL  
Photo: Keel Kuzner

James Harold Jennings  
Pineville, NC  
Photo: Axel Kusterer

Alvin "Little Pink" Anderson  
Atlanta, GA  
Photo: Mark Austin

We have helped Little Freddie King of New Orleans with eyeglasses, glaucoma medicine and dental work.

Outsider artist James Harold Jennings of Pineville, NC, whose paintings are featured in our new albums, passed away this spring.

John Campbell of Zion, Illinois, a blues pianist in his 80's was brought to our attention. We have been able to help with some financial assistance but have not yet gotten to meet him. We are looking forward to that day.

Guitar Gabile Ferrodin of Opelousas, LA; Frank Edwards & Beverly "Guitar" Watkins of Atlanta, GA; and Drink Small of Columbus, SC all received new Sebring guitars from MMRF.

Eugene Powell "Sonny Boy Nelson" was placed in hallowed ground in grateful recognition of over 80 years of playing and recording music in the Mississippi Blues Tradition on April 10 at Evergreen Cemetery in Merica, Mississippi.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, John Ferguson, Jr., Mudcat and Tim Duffy ran into Harry Belafonte and Madagascar musician Rosy in a small instrument repair shop in NYC this past April. Harry and Rosy played a tune for us, and then Beverly and John performed a blues song. Harry spent a couple hours with us and we all left this chance meeting feeling elated.

Pink Anderson's son, Alvin "Little Pink" Anderson, along with Freddie Vanderford (farpist) have performed blues music on a 13-part National Public Radio blues show that stars best-selling author and NPR Morning Edition host Lorraine Johnson-Coleman.

Cora Mae Bryant, Frank Edwards, Willa Mae Buckner and Captain Luke with John Ferguson, Jr. all gave guest performances at the Wintzen Blues Revival in Charlotte, NC.



Precious Bryant & Lucas Duffy  
Stone Mountain, GA  
Photo: Tim Duffy

We were fortunate to visit Precious Bryant in Waverly Hall, GA. Since her trailer fire Precious has acquired a new mobile home, a septic system and running water. She is in good health and singing and playing wonderfully. This January she will graduate from her G.E.D. program.

Popo Carter of Denton, Texas has a new CD release. At 79 years young he is performing with great vigor and feeling.

For CD/booking information contact Christopher Tracey (940) 591-9558 or [ctracey@prowess.com](mailto:ctracey@prowess.com)

## Artists Notes



Carl Rutherford & Benton Flippen  
Pinnacle, NC  
Photo: Tim Duffy



War, West Virginia  
Photo: Axel Küster

Codie Stark will travel to France this November to perform at a series of festivals and clubs in the Strasbourg area. Special thanks to Benjamin Tshoval for making this happen.

"The Blues Doctor" Drink Small of Columbia, South Carolina visited us in Pinnacle last Christmas and we were fortunate to visit with him at his home this summer.

Carl Rutherford of War, WV visited us and performed at our Fourth of July picnic with Benton Flippen of Mount Airy, NC. Carl told us he had to move back to his home up in the mountains and it was in complete disrepair. MMRF was able to send Dave McGrew and Johnathan Creech up to his home where they completed major repairs.



John Ferguson, Jr.  
Wineco Blues Revival,  
Philadelphia, PA  
Photo: Axel Küster



Rossy, Harry Belafonte,  
Beverly "Guitar" Watkins,  
Tim Duffy,  
John Ferguson, Jr.,  
Mudcat  
NYC  
Photo: Tim Duffy

Captain Luke, John Ferguson, Jr. and Ted Walters will perform at the Blues to Bop Festival in Lugano, Switzerland this August. Many thanks to artistic director Norman Hewitt who has featured MMRF artists at this festival for 9 years.

Guitar Gabriel's Deep in the South album was reviewed in the New York Post. See the MMRF website for the full article.

Betty Everett of Beloit, WI, who recorded with Vee Jay Records in the 60's, is a new recipient artist.



## Acknowledgements

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Many individuals and corporations have been enthusiastic supporters of our work. Here are a few of these folks:

Cello has been a boon to our organization since 1994. Their new major Cello Recordings label headed by Andrew Lauder and John Porter has secured distribution through Sire/WEA as well as major radio airplay across the USA and Europe.

Starbucks Coffee invited Timothy Duffy to write the liner notes for their new *Night On The Delta* album. Music Maker artists Preston Fulp, Neal Pattman, Guitar Gabriel, and Captain Luke are featured on this disc as well as Robert Johnson, Taj Mahal, Mance Lipscombe, Son House, Leadbelly and many other legendary blues artists. Purchase this album at all Starbucks Coffee shops.

National Reso-Phonic Guitars has put out a CD which features instrumental performances on new National guitars. A portion of the proceeds of the National Reso-Phonic Instrumental Project album will go to MMRF. Contact National to purchase: tel 805 546 8442 or [natres@nationalguitars.com](mailto:natres@nationalguitars.com). They also auctioned a guitar off at the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, Arkansas and sent a portion of the proceeds to MMRF. There will be a Slide Guitar Festival in Macon, GA this September in which they will feature MM artists.

iMail founder Marc Comer graciously offered to host our website and give MMRF the capability of e-commerce for online ordering of premium donation items.

RJR continues its support of MMRF by resuming the Winston Blues Revival tour this fall in 12 U.S. cities.

Long Haymes, Carr Advertising in Winston-Salem, NC continues to support our work.

D'Addario Strings continues to support Music Maker by supplying boxes of guitar strings.

The Oxford American Magazine, for a second year, has given MMRF a substantial contribution and a percentage of their news stand sales of their yearly double issue on Southern Music. Artists such as Bob Dylan and Lucinda Williams have waived their publishing and performance royalties so they can donate that money to MMRF.

Andy Grigg, editor of Canadian magazine *Real Blues*, has donated a page to us in their excellent publication.



Cello Recordings Executives Andrew Lauder, John Porter, Dal Davies  
Pineack, NC  
Photo: Tim Duffy

# Pictures



**Cootie Stark & Neal Pettman**  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 Photo: Mark Austin

**Etta Baker**  
 Morganton, NC  
 Photo: Axel Küstner



**HMRP Reps**  
 Denise Duffy,  
 Don Sawers,  
 Katie O'Brady  
 San Francisco, CA  
 Photo: Tim Duffy



**David Johnson**  
 Elba, AL  
 Photo: Axel Küstner



**Axel Küstner  
 & Friends**  
 Photo: Axel Küstner



Frank Edwards  
Pineville, NC  
Photo: Tim Duffy

Robert Thomas  
Society Hill, AL  
Photo: Axel Küstner



Mississippi Roadside  
Photo: Axel Küstner



Travis Hodge & Willie King  
Freedom Creek Festival,  
Altoona, AL  
Photo: Axel Küstner



HM Supporter Nora Hiner  
Pineville, NC  
Photo: Axel Küstner

# Music Maker News

Music Maker Series albums are rising up the British Blues Charts, with *Expressin' the Blues* at Number 7 and *Cootie Stark-Sugar Man* at Number 10 on the Virgin Megastores Charts.

Barry Dolins, the director of the Chicago Blues Fest, invited Cootie Stark and Neal Pattman to perform this summer, entertaining crowds on several stages. Taj Mahal, Tim Duffy, Mudcat and Ardie Dean backed up both these musicians. John Jackson, Cephus and Wiggins and Bruce Laugier of Alligator Records made us feel right at home. We were assured that MMRF would have an annual presence at this mother of blues festivals.

Taj Mahal introduced us to Leo Tallifero, a jazz guitarist from the West Coast who made it possible for us to purchase a number of high-quality guitars at an extremely reasonable price.

Shannock's Pawn and Jewelry of King, North Carolina also sold us a number of instruments at a greatly reduced price.

Writer Peter Cooper has begun work on a book about Cootie Stark.

Program Services Coordinator, Rachel Shaboet, our best and only full-time employee, has been with us one year. She has been instrumental in managing our recent growth of recipient artists.

We thank publicists Lisa Vega of Susan Blonde Inc. and Jeremy Freeman of KSA for their tremendously successful work in getting MMRF and the albums into the national press.

In Atlanta on June 26 and 27, Mudcat, The Northside Tavern and MMRF held the 10th Giving it Back Festival honoring Precious Bryant and Chicago Bob Nelson. Music Maker artists Cootie Stark, Neal Pattman, Cora Mae Bryant, Frank Edwards, Capt. Luke with John Ferguson Jr., Eddie Tigner, Rufus McKeezie, Essie Mae Brooks, James Davis, Jerry McCain, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Curtis Smith, and Albert White all performed.

Taj Mahal and Tim Duffy were able to visit with Bonnie Raitt at a recent Tom Petty concert in San Francisco, CA.

We have begun a warm friendship with the author Harvey Pekar, famed for his *American Splendor* comic book. We got to know each other in the weeks leading up to our show in Cleveland last April and have many possible future projects in mind.

We have been working in the MMRF community garden in Pinnacle providing fresh vegetables to local artists.



**Mudcat**  
Northside Tavern, Atlanta, GA  
Photo: Tim Duffy

Tim Duffy, Cootie Stark and Taj Mahal  
Photo: Mark Austin



Dave McGrew & Haskell Adkins  
Hudson, WA  
Photo: Axel Kistner

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getting things for free." He does, however, single out Bonnie Raitt, Pete Townshend and especially Eric Clapton as being generous with their time and money.

Music Maker struggled initially and took off three years ago when a \$100,000 check arrived out of the blue. The foundation raises about that much every year now, not all of it from corporations. Plenty of individuals also send in checks for \$10, \$20, \$50.

If the need weren't so great, it would be nice to take a year's worth of donations and invest the money in an endowment. Unfortunately, the Duffys wind up paying the money out almost as fast as they can raise it just to put out fires.

"The recipients need this money now," Denise Duffy says. "I love the idea of creating an endowment, but these people will never be any healthier than they are today."

"Until we get a \$10 million endowment from somebody," Tim Duffy adds, "that's not gonna happen. One of these rock 'n' rollers could just do a big concert and make our next five years. Or maybe there's a real generous billionaire out there. You never can tell."

## Studio in the country

Music Maker Relief Foundation has its headquarters in an 89-year-old farmhouse near Finnacle, in the shadow of Mount Pilot north of Winston-Salem. An array of outsider-art greggians cover the house's walls and shelves, handwork of the late James Harold Jennings, the renowned Finnacle folk artist who committed suicide this year.

The house doubles as a studio, with racks of Cello recording gear set up in the living room. Cello is one of the foundation's major underwriters, providing money as well as recording equipment. Duffy earns his primary income as a salaried producer for Cello, and he does most of his recording right here.

"By chance, this old country house is a perfect studio," Duffy says. "It's got this flat wood floor and an asbestos ceiling, and the sound in here is real warm."

On a recent afternoon, Duffy is listening to tapes with Cootie Stark, one of six Music Maker artists to have released an album this year — "Sugar Man," which includes everything from John Lee Hooker-style boogie to gospel testifying. Beautifully packaged with terrific artwork and liner notes, the Music Maker albums come out on Six Records Group. That gives major-label distribution to artists who haven't recorded in years, if at all.

One of Duffy's more intriguing discoveries is Captain Luke (Luther Nyles), grand old man of Winston-Salem and a remarkable Brooks Benton-style crooner. Duffy cues up a recently recorded track and hits the play button, filling the room with "Folk Salad Annie." Luke's voice is amazing, a basso-profundo that's close to Barry White territory, but utterly dry and without a hint of vibrato. Providing tasteful accompaniment on the track is John Ferguson Jr., a virtually unknown South Carolina guitarist.

"There's not a voice like Luke's out there anywhere," Duffy says, "this deep and this crisp. And John, this guy's never recorded before. I think he's one of the greatest undiscovered guitar players in the world, he can do anything. Electric guitar is not usually my bag, but he's just a genius. Put him in a room with Jeff Beck and he can go, or he can play in a more traditional style."

Captain Luke's album is due in January and it's something of a departure for Music Maker. The six albums released this year are more traditional. There's Etta Baker's "Railroad Bill," a fine example of Elizabeth Cotten-style Piedmont fingerpicking, "Bull Durham Blues" from Blind Boy Fuller crew John Dee Holman and one-armed Georgia harmonica man Neil Patzman's "Prison Blues."

But the artist most closely associated with Music Maker is the late Robert "Nyles" Jones, better-known as Guitar Gabriel.

## The role of Gabriel

Gabriel was a troubadour bluesman who always played in a fuzzy sheepskin hat (a trademark from his medicine-show days). He could spin the most surreal talking-blues narratives this side of Bob Dylan — alternately scary and hilarious odes to wine, women, song and the hereafter.

Gabriel recorded in the early '70s with some success but had been out of the music business for years when he and Duffy met in 1991. Duffy, working on his graduate degree in folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, connected instantly with Gabriel's musical brilliance. The two hit it off, and Gabriel became Duffy's mentor, introducing the young graduate student to the bars and house parties of the Winston-Salem blues community.

In return, Duffy got Gabriel back into music as a way of doing something about the impoverished equator in which the elder bluesman lived. They played together for years, from the lowliest dive bars up to Carnegie Hall, with Duffy serving as Gabriel's road manager, accompanist, drinking buddy and occasional target of abuse.

"Gabriel was tough," Denise Duffy says. "After him, anybody else seems easy. He was musically very demanding of Tim and was always questioning things. But he got things going and introduced Tim to a lot of artists."

One of those difficult moments is documented in the liner notes to Gabriel's posthumously released Music Maker album, "Deep in the South." One night, in a fit of alcohol-stoked anger, Gabriel lashed out at Duffy and his other white backup musicians as "white mother [expletives] ripping this old black man off."

"Gabe had a lot of pain in him about that stuff," Duffy says. "And I still sometimes get that. You go into someplace you don't know you do run across that attitude. Some communities just assume that you can't be trusted if you're white. Black-white relationships are always strange and trying, but you have to make it work. Even Cootie and I now, we have to work things out."

After Gabriel died in 1996, Cootie Stark assumed his role as ambassador figure for Music Maker. But Duffy still credits Gabriel as the inspiration behind the foundation.

"Gabriel really was the grand architect of this whole thing," Duffy says. "He helped with the vision, putting it together, laying out the groundwork — and he died before he could really get anything out of it. I was never able to put \$1,500 in his hand. He was a great intellect, a great drinker, humorous, personality 'Nyles' he was difficult, but I miss him. He was like Ligioni Hopkins. Every time he played he wrote another song. I put together close to 400 songs he wrote, and they're all great."

One of those songs is "Two Brothers," the final track on the 1995 recording "Guitar Gabriel, Volume 1." Duffy says Gabriel wrote the song about him, though the storyline is a cryptic tale of homesick boys on a fishing trip. But the final-verse coda seems to be about the Music Maker Relief Foundation, which Gabriel and Duffy were putting together at the time:

You know, it's kinda the end of my story  
Don't know in the past, whether we can make it last  
But anyhow, we was on our journey, trying to reach the other side  
It was so understanding that we had a plan  
Said we can only make it through  
All of this stuff that we're doing might come true.

Reprinted by permission of The News and Observer of Raleigh, North Carolina.

## Music Maker Series

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### **COOTIE STARK: Sugar Man**

Cootie Stark, Blind Bard of Greenville, South Carolina brings new life to blues standards and introduces previously unrecorded gems from the tradition of the Carolina sand-hills.



### **NEAL PATTMAN: Prison Blues**

Born in the same county as Sonny Terry, Neal Pattman of Adkins, Georgia is the greatest living country harp player. He returns to his roots on Prison Blues in a vocal/harmonica tour de force, backed by Taj Mahal on banjo and doghouse bass.



### **JOHN DEE HOLEMAN: Bull Durham Blues**

In the tradition of Blind Boy Fuller, John Dee Holeman of Durham, North Carolina plays the blues of the urban South with warmth and sophistication. He is joined here by Taj Mahal on guitar, bass, and hand-slapping.



### **ALGIA MAE HINTON: Honey Babe**

Algia sings and buckdances her way through blues classics accompanied by Taj Mahal on doghouse bass. Much of this record was made in Algia's juke joint in Middlesex, N.C.



### **ETTA BAKER: Railroad Bill**

Eighty-four years old and still the primary exponent of the Piedmont finger-style guitar, Etta has a strong outing in her first recording in eight years.



### **EXPRESSIN' THE BLUES:**

Twenty-one songs by twenty-one artists. This intriguing compilation samples some of the myriad artists encountered by Timothy Duffy in the course of his continuing field recording in the southern states.



### **GUITAR GABRIEL: Deep in The South**

This grand lyric effort by deceased genius Guitar Gabriel consummates the uniquely southern experience known as the Blues.

## Donations



Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.



## Premiums Available for Your Tax-Deductible Donations

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation (fully tax deductible)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16" x 20" Reproduction of photograph of David Johnson's hands by Axel Küstner (quality suitable for framing)  
\$20 + \$3 shipping = **\$23.00**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guitar Gabriel, Cootie Stark and Willa Mae Buckner "Snake Lady" Tee Shirts sizes L & XL (circle choice and size)  
\$15 + \$3 shipping = **\$18 each**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post Card Book — A collection of 30 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" photographs by Axel Küstner  
\$30.00 + \$2.50 shipping = **\$32.50**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music Maker CD's  
\$17.00 + \$1.50 shipping = **\$18.50 each**  
(quantity of each title)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Algia Mae Hinton: Honey Babe
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Cootie Stark: Sugar Man
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Etta Baker: Railroad Bill
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Guitar Gabriel: Deep in the South
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Guitar Gabriel: Volume 1
  - \_\_\_\_\_ John Dee Holeman: Bull Durham Blues
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Neal Pattman: Prison Blues
- Various Artists
- \_\_\_\_\_ Expressin' the Blues
  - \_\_\_\_\_ A Living Past
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Came So Far
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Donation** (International shipping add \$5 US)

Note: Due to IRS regulations the entire amount of a donation is reduced by the total value of premiums by donors.

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If you would like to make your donation by Mastercard or Visa you may call us at 336.325.2502 (M-F 9 to 5 EST) or Fax us at 336.325.3260 (anytime) or through our website at [musicmaker.org](http://musicmaker.org) or write us at the address below.

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### **Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.**

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern musical traditions gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. Today, many such musicians are living in extreme poverty and need food, shelter, medical care, and other assistance. Music Maker's aid and service programs improve the quality of recipients lives. Our work affirms to these artists' that we value the gifts of music and inspiration they have delivered to the world. Our mission is to give back to the roots of American music.

Our criterion for recipients is they be rooted in a Southern musical tradition, be 55 years or older and have an annual income less than \$18,000.

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