Dear Friends,

We are very proud to proclaim the publication of our book "Music Makers: Portraits & Songs from the Roots of America" (Hill Street Press). This edition celebrates previously unrecognized pioneers of our Southern musical traditions. In this Rag we present photographs from this upcoming work.

Guitar Gabriel, Precious Bryant, Willa Mae Buckner, Mr. Q, Cootie Stark and dozens more artists are brought to light through the documentary photography of Tim Duffy, Kevin Hoppe, Axel Kustner and Mark Austin. Each chapter profiles a Music Maker artist through biographies, song lyrics, quotes and articles; contributing writers include Taj Mahal, Peter Cooper, Denise Duffy and Wesley Wilkes. A 23-song CD comes with this book. We are very grateful to B.B. King who wrote the foreword, which has been reprinted in this Rag.

This book is the cornerstone of our 2002 Holiday Gift Program. Order copies for all your family, friends and business associates. Let us take care of your gift wrapping and shipping!

For the past few years Bill Lucado has brought Music Maker artists to his home in Zancudo, Costa Rica for a vacation of fishing, playing music and swimming in this exotic beach paradise. Last year Taj Mahal joined us on this trek. He proclaimed it the best deep sea fishing experience of his life. No small compliment from a man that fishes throughout the world!

Taj and Bill put their heads together and cooked up the Taj Mahal Fishing Blues Tournament to benefit the Foundation. If you love to fish, listen to the blues, eat great food and be around interesting people, don’t miss out on the fun in February. Make your reservation now. There are only 20 fishing spots available as Zancudo has extremely limited accommodations and boats.

We thank everyone that has supported our cause and we offer a warm welcome to all the new donors joining us this fall.

With warm regards,

Tim & Denise Duffy

Old Memphis, AL

© Kustner
I was brought up on a farm in the Mississippi Delta, plowing fields behind a mule. My mother’s first cousin, Bukka White, was a real deal bluesman who cut records for the Victor and Vocation labels. I idolized him and fellow bluesmen Lonnie Johnson and Blind Lemon Jefferson. The blues is about feelings and their blues meant hope, excitement, and pure emotion. Those artists’ guitars sang just like their voices.

So many bluesmen and blueswomen have given their hearts and souls to this music. Unfortunately many never rise from obscurity or have only a brief moment in the spotlight, and thus face hard times when they can no longer perform.

I met Music Maker Relief Foundation’s founder Timothy Duffy while recording my album “Deuces Wild” in 1997. I learned of the mission of the group and how it was helping document and nourish the musical culture in which I was raised. I was delighted to know that the foundation had taken a unique approach by helping these artists with their daily needs so they could return to making music.

Tim gave me a number of CDs of Music Maker artists’ work and when I played them later that night in my Los Angeles hotel room, it was like breathing the good country air from back home. The music invigorated me. The cover photos struck me, reminding me of the musicians I grew up around. I knew that when people found out the foundation’s work, they would be happy to help and I encouraged Tim to be steadfast in his work.

By collecting Mark Austin’s, Axel Kühnert’s, and his own photographs in Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America, Tim has provided an important and authentic document of this little-known but vibrant world. This selection from his archives takes me back to the farms, the juke joints, the front porches, the kitchen tables where I first heard this music and began making it myself. By documenting the faces and the deep, soulful eyes of the people who make the music I love, these photographers preserve a dimension of blues culture that could easily be lost forever. Music Makers, like the foundation from which it takes its name, preserves an American essence we can’t afford to lose.

I cannot encourage people enough to learn more about MMRF and to listen to the music that they document and promote. The compilation of Music Maker artists enclosed in this book will make you want to cry and shout for joy as only the real blues can do.

B. B. King
Catch the blues (and some big fish) in Costa Rica with Taj Mahal.

Limited to just 20 lucky people, here's your chance to be a part of the 1st Taj Mahal Fishing Blues Tournament in Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica - February 17th through the 22nd.

Your 6-day, 5-night package includes:
- February 17th & 20th you'll enjoy three days of guided deep sea fishing; two people per boat plus a captain.
- February 22nd you're invited to a private party; a meal, buffet with trophies for the most total fish, biggest tuna and overall biggest fish, plus a concert featuring Taj Mahal and other Music Maker Relief Foundation artists. A once-in-a-lifetime show.
- Then, on February 21st you'll join everyone at the private oceanfront residence of board member Bill Zancudo for an all-day beach party & pig roast jamboree.

World-class accommodations
You'll stay at the world-renowned "Roy's Zancudo Lodge, home to over 40 saltwater fishing world records. Your room is fully furnished and comes with excellent meals prepared daily by Roy's staff. There's also a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, and additional comforts for a relaxing stay.

Half the cost is tax deductible
The price for this once-in-a-lifetime event is $5,000.00 (half of which is tax deductible) and includes roundtrip airfare from Miami or Atlanta, all transportation while in Costa Rica, hotel accommodations, meals, drinks, fishing — everything but tips and personal items really.

Help us help those in need
The Music Maker Relief Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the true heroes and pioneers of the blues continue to do what they love and meet their day-to-day needs.

For more information on the Music Maker Relief Foundation, and to be a part of the 1st Taj Mahal Fishing Blues Tournament, call Music Maker at 919-643-2456 or log on to www.musicmaker.org
...William Lewis is the new Projects Director of the NC Folklife Institute.

Many thanks to Bill Puckett and the good folks at E. James White for the successful benefit concert at the State Theatre in Falls Church, VA.

We welcome Jane Reed as our new Programs Coordinator.

Learn how MMRF can help your corporation, contact us for a marketing package.

We are seeking donations of a good upright piano and a pick-up truck.

A Tiger Woods commercial for American Express features music from our new CD solo: volume blue. (The one where he is fishing.)

All the performers wish to thank John Price, Blues Bank Collective and the Portsmouth Blues Festival for their hospitality. It was a tremendous show.

We thank Rachel Shabott for her years of service as our webmaster. Ken Ray our new webmaster has rebuilt our site. Check it out!

www.musicmaker.org

We thank Ardie Dean for working with Jerry McCain on his new recording.

Guitar Gabriel's new grave marker is beautiful. A photo of it is on our website.

Readers Digest January Issue features a story on MMRF.

We thank Paul Reed Smith for signing and donating one of his guitars which is valued at $4,000 and was auctioned off at the benefit concert.

Great thanks to Gadow Guitars of Durham, NC. They have been donating repairs to MM artists' instruments gratis. Check out www.mrgadowguitars.com.

Please welcome Delacey Skinner to our development team. Contact her with suggestions about foundations or grants that could support our mission. Call (347) 451-6455 or email delacey@musicmaker.org.

Cool John Ferguson has created a wonderful international blues hot spot at the All People Grill in Durham, NC.

Little Pink Anderson thrilled the audience at the Lincoln Center of Doors Festival this summer.

Chris Carman had acquired blues legend Curley Weaver's old guitar a few years ago. Curley's daughter Cora Mae Bryant was very happy when Chris proudly presented this to her at the Davenport Blues Festival.

Neal Pattman of Athens continues to perform powerful Georgia Blues.

Little Freddie King and MMRF were featured in the Minneapolis Star Tribune this August. Freddie gave a terrific performance at the Lugaro Blues to Bop festival in Switzerland over Labor Day.

Texas bluesman Clyde Langford reminds us, "Music comes from the air."

Our dear friend, Mr. Q of Winston-Salem, spends his days talking to God and battling devils at night. Fortunately, he is living in the comfort of a nursing home.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain is working on yet another classic album.

Eitta Baker continues to perform on banjo and guitar at events in her area.

Cootie Stark was a hit at the Lyone Blues Festival in Colorado. We were so happy to have the great Washboard Chaz play with us.

Rufus McKenzie had a stroke and presently cannot talk, but can still blow his harp.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins is doing well and is presently seeking go-go dancers for her stage show.

Cool John Ferguson, All People Grill (2725 Gress Rd, Durham, NC) on Saturday nights. Check website to confirm dates. Futuristic blues that will blow your mind!

To hear the real old blues go visit Willie King on Sunday nights down at Better's Place near Old Memphis, Alabama. Call Willie at 205 373 2521.

Captain Luke and Cool John, John Dee Holeman and Cootie Stark will be at the Camboro Arts Center in Camboro, NC. November 22 from 8 to 10.

February 4-8 come take a Blues Cruise with Taj Mahal, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Cootie Stark, Cool John Ferguson and Mudcat and many other artists. To book your cabin contact: www.bluesin.tv or 816.753.7979
Annual Report

Music Maker
Financial Summary
Fiscal Year ending 3/31/02

Revenues .................................. $257,032

Expenses

Program Services and Grants to Artists .................. $170,889

Fundraising .................................. $85,536

Management and General ............................ $60,156

Total Expenses .................................. $296,581

Net Assets at year end ...................... $157,530

Complete, audited financial statements available upon request.
Holiday Gift Program

This year give a gift that celebrates the true pioneers of the blues!

Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America

The Story of MUSIC MAKERS, in pictures, words and the music.
By founder Tim Duffy

MUSIC MAKERS Book and CD

The story of the Music Maker Relief Foundation comes to life in this beautiful collection of photographs and writings. The 69 musicians profiled in this book take you on a soulful ride you'll never forget. Includes a 23-track CD and a foreword by B.B. King. 208 pages, 11"x8", 160 b&w photographs, hard cover.
From the Roots of America II

NEW! Chase this second CD to enjoy 21 traditional tracks featured in the book!

Including Taj Mahal's version of "Creole Belle," but two tracks are previously unreleased.

Givin' it Back Record Club

By joining, you help issue CDs for recipient artists. Most of these men and women have spent a lifetime performing their music and have never recorded.

Join the Givin' it Back Record Club and you will receive a new Music Maker CD every three months for one year. The CDs are mailed out in December, March, June and September. You will be the first to receive a brand new release prior to us offering it on our website and mailings.

Cootie Stark is one such artist whose career Music Maker has boosted. The 74-year-old, blind guitar player and street singer from Greenville, SC, has spent six decades performing the blues. "In my time I never thought that I'd be recognized like I am now. I've always wanted it, but it's been a bumpy road just to get it. It takes time. You see God; He has something down the line for me. I was just rushing it. Now it's here. It's joyful. I'm really proud. I'm really glad."

We thank you for your support and we hope you join with us in trying to issue as many in this series as we can.
Options:

- **Book & CD**  
  Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America, Book & CD, a donation in the recipient's name & a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.  
  $35

- **Book & 2 CDs**  
  Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America, Book & CD; PLUS from the Roots of America II Companion CD, a donation in the recipient's name & a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.  
  $50

- **Book, 2 CDs & Record Club**  
  Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America, Book & CD, PLUS a one-year membership in the Music Maker CD Club (Songs from the Roots of America II CD and 3 more new Music Maker CD releases throughout 2003), a donation in the recipient's name & a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.  
  $135

- **Shirt**  
  MMRF T-shirt (M L XL XXL), a donation in the recipient's name & a subscription to the Music Maker Rag.  
  $25

- **Gift Order**

  **Holiday Gift #1 (check one)**  
  - $25 T-shirt (circle one M L XL XXL)  
  - $25 Book  
  - $50 Book & CD  
  - $135 Book & Record Club

  **Ship to (check one):**  
  - Me  
  - Gift Recipient (please fill out information below)

  **Name:**  
  **Street:**  
  **City:**  
  **State:**  
  **Phone:**

  **Gift Message:**

  **Arrival time**  
  Please allow 2-3 weeks

  - ASAP  
  - By Dec 15th  
  - By Dec 22nd

  **Holiday Gift #2 (circle one)**  
  - $25 T-shirt (circle one M L XL XXL)  
  - $25 Book  
  - $50 Book & CD  
  - $135 Book & Record Club

  **Ship to (check one):**  
  - Me  
  - Gift Recipient (please fill out information below)

  **Name:**  
  **Street:**  
  **City:**  
  **State:**  
  **Phone:**

  **Gift Message:**

  **Arrival time**  
  Please allow 2-3 weeks

  - ASAP  
  - By Dec 15th  
  - By Dec 22nd

More Options:

- **www.musicmaker.org**
“Music Makers, clearly dispels the notion that real blues musicians are long gone! The accompanying CD is incredible, a testament to the tremendous originality and musicianship of these artists!”

- Taj Mahal

“A fabulous project — real evidence that the music I have always loved is alive and well.”

- Eric Clapton

“It’s great to have this window on some underappreciated bluesmen and women. This book does a terrific job bringing artists like Precious Bryant and Beverly “Guitar” Watkins to light.”

- Bonnie Raitt
MMRF extends tremendous gratitude to all musicians and fans for making this event in the D.C. area such a great event.

The State Theatre was sold out! Mudcat opened the show and wowed the crowd with an inspired version of “Savannah Mama.” Nap Turner of WPFW welcomed Music Maker and its mission to town. Cootie Stank took the stage in a lime green suit and with the help of Taj Mahal on upright bass brought the audience “way back” with his deep Piedmont blues. Cool John took command and put the audience into a mesmerizing frenzy as he wailed on the donated PRS guitar.

Taj Mahal delighted his fans with a rare solo set with inspired renditions of his soulful blues. Eddie Tigner then sat down on the piano and brought on a peaceful feeling of joy to the room, which was a perfect introduction to Beverly “Guitar” Watkins who came out prowling the stage and fiercely playing her beloved guitar. Taj Mahal returned to the stage in a black suit, jumped on the keyboards and began to wail, closing the show with a standing ovation. What an evening!

We applaud our sponsors 2941 Restaurant, Bill Lucado, JP’s Shellfish, the Jones Family, Paul Reed Smith, David & Peggy Moore, The Guitar Center, Five Points Band, E. James White Communications, and WPFW 89.3 who made it a night to remember and a financial boost for the foundation. We thank the new restaurant 2941 for the elegant dinner for our sponsors before the show and to Bill Lucado who won the PRS guitar with the highest bid.
Music And the Beat Goes On.

The Music Maker Foundation preserves root music and the artists who create it.

By Karen Olson, Utne Reader
August 2002

When guitarist Ry Cooder helped rediscover the great musicians of the Buena Vista Social Club, he ignited a major Cuban music boom. Having already done the same for West African greats like Ali Farka Touré, Cooder seemed to be taking up where the famed musicologist Alan Lomax left off, introducing American audiences to folk sounds from around the world.

But Cooder is not alone. Other music lovers are trying to preserve authentic musical styles, including some catchy grooves a lot closer to home. In North Carolina, Tim Duffy, another guitar player turned ethnomusicologist, is bringing recognition and support to aging, mostly unknown masters of traditional Southern roots music—a.k.a. the blues. As music legend Taj Mahal describes it, "This tradition is 25 miles down a dusty road off the blacktop, where 157 people in a little village are listening to musicians still playing like they were playing it 50, 60, 100 years ago." Taj Mahal is one of a number of musical celebrities who have helped Duffy realize his dream of not only getting these old musicians on disc, but helping them find health insurance and pay the rent.

Duffy, 39, encountered a number of these artists in the 1980s as a graduate student in folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After documenting the work of James "Guitar Slim" Stephens for the university's Southern Folklore Collection, Duffy began playing with another old-timer in the Winston-Salem area named Guitar Gabriel. Traveling with Gabriel to "drunk houses" and other neighborhood venues throughout the Southeast, Duffy got to know many other old performers, most of whom were struggling to make ends meet. "It was food or medicine, rent or the car," he says.

So working out of a tin storage shed behind a used-car lot, Duffy began trying to book gigs and make record deals for his new acquaintances, although none of it paid much. Meanwhile, Duffy started making his own field recordings of the musicians he met along the way. A breakthrough came in 1993 when he met audio pioneer Mark Levinson, who loved the recordings and was appalled to hear how poorly the artists who made them were often forced to live. Levinson came up with the idea for the nonprofit Music Maker Relief Foundation, to provide assistance to Southern roots musicians over 55 with an annual income of less than $18,000. Many of the artists will be featured in Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America, a collection of photographs and stories, with a foreword by B.B. King, to be published in October by Hill Street Press.

Duffy and his wife, Denise, now run Music Maker from their home in rural Hillsborough, North Carolina. Along with staffer Deb Mischo, they work with about 100 artists, providing assistance for housing, medicine, and food as well as instruments and tour expenses. The Duffys' kids, ages 5 and 2, often help in the Music Maker Garden. Inspired by jazz pianist Mr. Q., the Duffys grow tomatoes and vegetables and share them with other local musicians. There's also a cottage where visiting artists can find the peace and quiet to create. It all makes for a delightfully lively setting—part artists' colony, part jam session.

The foundation has gotten support from stars like Bonnie Raitt, Pete Townshend, and Eric Clapton. Taj Mahal has been involved for years, sitting in on recording sessions and touring with musicians. Music Maker artists get 500 copies of their CDs to sell for their own profit. "Helping keep this music alive is exciting for me," he says, but the bigger impact may be on younger artists. This is an opportunity to
- create a bridge between the type of music they're playing and the type that's been played in this country for centuries.

One young artist who's crossing that bridge is Sol, a 26-year-old Boones Mill, Virginia, musician, who tagged along with Duffy as a kid, meeting and recording musicians across the Deep South. His new CD, Sol, volume: blue, is a modern remix of some of their tapes.

A player known as Cool John—whom Taj Mahal calls "one of the five greatest guitarist I've ever heard"—collaborated with Sol on the music, and Guitar Gabriel and Coopie Stark do most of the singing and talking. Sol, volume: blue is the most recent release of the Glyin' It Black Record Club sponsored by Music Makers. For $100 a year, members get four of the label's new releases (one every four months).

Duffy has attracted more than 200 club supporters, and the foundation raises money through concerts, street festivals, individual donations, and a gift program. But with 70 recordings ready and waiting to be issued, Duffy doesn't have nearly enough funds to get out all the material. That support will come, says Taj Mahal, when people begin to realize the treasure Duffy is struggling to preserve. "Just listen to the music," he says. "How often do you really hearing the hearts of the people, hearing music that courses through the blood?"
Little Pink Anderson, Carolina Bluesman

Carolina Bluesman showcases a masterful country blues player displaying some exceptional guitar chops and soulful vocals. Little Pink evokes the relaxed charm of his father's playing; he obviously played with the old man.

Etta Baker, Railroad Bill

One of the signature chords of my guitar vocabulary comes from her version of "Railroad Bill." Enjoy the profound artistry of this beautiful set of guitar instrumentals. - Taj Mahal

Essie Mae Brooks, Rain in Your Life

Essie Mae raises her voice and expresses her faith in her original collection of gospel songs. Cool John Ferguson accompanies her on most of the album with his light and masterful improvisations on guitar and piano.

Cora Mae Bryant, Burn with the Blues

Cora Mae Bryant is the daughter of Georgia guitar legend Corley Weaver. The combination of her father's and her own songs accompanied by expert Georgia blues guitarist Joshua Jacobson make this a very entertaining set.

Cool John Ferguson

Cool John is a master of all styles from laid-back lounge jazz to hillbilly music, from country blues to heavy blues rock guitar. And that's what makes up the majority of the tracks on this record. Almost Hendrix-like licks and phrases, distortion and heavy sounds, played at high speed. His technique is incredible.

Preston Fulg, Sawmill Worker

Preston Fulg, born in 1915, was a sawmill worker, a tobacco sharecropper, moonshiner, and blues and old-time guitarist. He made these recordings at the age of 79. Preston weaves stories of his life through both secular and sacred songs.

Guitar Gabriel, Deep in the South

Guitar Gabriel boogies and cries heart-felt country blues in this set. He knew Blind Boy Fuller in his youth, traveled with medicine shows and performed with an appealingly winced voice and easy-going 6-string style.

Guitar Gabriel, Volume One

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

Big Boy Henry, Beaufort Blues

This exquisitely recorded CD showcases the brilliant song-writing and tremendous voice of the Patriarch of the Carolina Blues.

George Nigga, Tarboro Blues

Acoustic Piedmont blues by George Nigga, a North Carolina who was inspired to take up the harmonica as a child after hearing Darrell Bailey on the radio and seeing Peg Leg Sam at a medicine show. Then learned to play guitar as a teenager. Voted the best blues album of 2001 by Living Blues.

Algia Mae Hinton, Honey Babe

Algia Mae is a great example of what is called in and throughout Africa Ghanora, "Original Joe." This is an innovative character that survives and creates anew under all circumstances. Algia Mae Hinton is someone not to be missed! - Taj Mahal


Here is Captain Luke, singing like a disenfranchised Dean Martin, rumbling low and wise enough to make Barry White sound pre-adolescent. Features a beautiful 20 pg. booklet.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain, This Stuff Just Kills Me

No one plays a harp or sings the blues quite like Jerry "Boogie" McCain. Backed by a stellar rhythm section, Jerry's accompanied by a lineup of guest musicians including, Double Trouble, Johnnie Johnson, Anson Funderburgh and Jimmie Vaughn.

Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Unplugged

Jerry "Boogie" McCain is the greatest post war harp player alive today. This is Jerry's one and only acoustic album. Jerry shines with his brilliant song writing in this intimate set of down home blues.

Real Pattman, Prison Blues

Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz

Real Pattman is a country blues harp player born in the same county of Sonny Terry. He shines in a sound and style his daddy taught him as a child in the country outside Athens, Georgia.

Carl Rutherford, Turn Off the Fear

Here is grandfather Carl Rutherford's devastating take on "The Old Rugged Cross" and other jewels that showcase his unique blend of Buck Owens-styled twang, old-time gospel numbers and harrowing mining songs making him a true American original.

Soul Volume Blue

While many young, white musicians attempt to replicate the blues masters' art, soul steers clear of imitation in favor of excavation and transport. Sounds carry beyond genre, beyond origin and often beyond the grave. Remember: most of the blues arrive in some new place, through some new voice, through some kid who is not.
John Dee Holeman, Bull Durham Blues
John Dee Holeman is a wonderful carrier of the southeast blues tradition - Taj Mahal

Cookie Stark, Sugar Man
Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz
Sugar Man doesn't merely proclaim "Cookie Stark was here." It is evidence that Stark was, and is, a idiosyncratic, tremendously talented musician. It's a sonic monument and a mirror that immediately blues the textbook books dedicated to Piedmont blues. It's a big deal.

Eddie Tigner, Route 66
Eddie Tigner performed as an Ink Spot for over 30 years. In this album Eddie and his band exuberantly nail a set of timeless standards.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Back in Business
Here is Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, previously heard from as one of Dr. Feelgood's interns, decreeing herself "Back in Business." This is a highly charged record by this powerful performer.

Lightnin' Wells, Ragged but Right
Lightnin' almost like no other is keeping the Piedmont blues tradition alive. Beautiful country blues album featuring Taj Mahal on upright bass and Cool John on guitar on 2 tracks.

Compilations:
A Living Past
This was the first album in the Music Maker series and has been heralded as a classic recording by reviewers throughout the world. This album is a superb sampler of the traditional blues scene in North Carolina.

Blues Came to Georgia
Music Maker's Tim Duffy has assembled this collection of 15 songs to illustrate the continuing vitality of grassroots blues in Georgia at the turn of the century.

Come So Far
This CD presents eighteen selections by twelve astonishing blues and gospel artists. This album was made in the field, in old trailers, kitchens, living rooms and nursing homes.

Expressin' the Blues
This collection features 21 songs by 21 of the most talented and unsung heroes of the blues. Here is a collection of some of the most emotional, gut-level music available on disc, the feelings intensified by the immediacy of the recordings.

CD Order Form

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Music Maker Relief Foundation
4052 Summer Lane
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Telephone: (919) 643-2456
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e-mail orders@musicmaker.org
www.musickmaker.org

Music Maker Relief Foundation is a 501 © 3 tax exempt organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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 the talent of 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 recipient is that they be rooted in a Southern musical tradition, be 55 years or older and have an annual income less than $18,000.

Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. is a tax exempt, public charity under IRS code 501(c)3.

Music Maker Programs
+ Life Maintenance - Grants for necessities such as food, medical needs, housing, etc.
+ Instrument Acquisition - Provides quality instruments and maintenance funds to recipient musicians.
+ Tour Support - Provides funding and services to musicians wishing to tour and record.
+ Emergency Relief - Substantial one-time grants to recipients in crisis (medical, fire, theft, etc.)
+ Visiting Artist Program - Brings artists to our headquarters for professional development and assessment of needs.

Board of Directors
Timothy Duffy - President
Denise Duffy
Taj Mahal
Bill Lucas
Daniel "Moscat" Dudeck
Lightnin' Wells
Bill Puckett
John Price

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