

MUSIC MAKERS **RAG**

The Official Newsletter of the Music Maker Relief Foundation

Spring 2001



Beverly "Guitar" Watkins

© Paul Harris

Dear Friends,

As diverse as the musical expressions of our ever-growing list of recipient artists may be, they all share a great love of performance. Since 1991 we have presented breath-taking shows of Music Maker artists at historic venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, House of Blues, Irving Plaza, and the Great American Music Hall.

In 1998-99 Taj Mahal helped us with a national tour performing more than 40 Blues Revival shows at major venues across the country. These sold-out shows featuring Beverly "Guitar"



Tim, Cootie & Taj

© Küssner

Watkins, Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Neal Pattman, Cootie Stark, Cool John Ferguson and Mudcat showcased the vitality and sheer excitement of these previously unknown acts. Our sponsor ran two-page spreads in national magazines including Rolling Stone, Spin, Vibe, Sports Illustrated, People, Playboy and Entertainment Weekly and local ads in publications such as The Village Voice and Chicago Reader to promote the shows in each city.

Since 2000 our Music Maker Blues Revival has thrilled audiences at the Chicago Blues Festival, Kansas City Blues Festival and European gigs. The Lucerne Blues Festival (Switzerland), the Nancy Jazz Festival (France) and the Blues Escalette (Holland) have all been patrons to our artists. Blues to Bop in Lugano, Switzerland will celebrate 10 years of hosting our artists this summer.

Our Tour Support and Visiting Artists programs have always created and nurtured quality performance opportunities for the benefit of the artists and our culture. We now seek to expand this effort and have recruited William Lewis to book gigs. William is a candidate for a Master of Arts degree in the Curriculum in Folklore at UNC-Chapel Hill. We plan to get the show on the road and spread the word of our mission.

Music Makers: Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America will be published in October. Tim has put together a slide show/lecture with live music provided by Cool John Ferguson telling the story of the Foundation. This presentation is also available for booking.

This Rag celebrates many of the talented artists that have graced these five stages. Please check our website for the most up to date information on artist events at www.musicmaker.org. Check out the order form. Collect the whole catalog!

With warm regards,

Timothy & Denise Duffy

_____ **Guitar & Back Record Club** \$100.00 1 yr. membership

_____ **Music Maker CD's** \$18.00 each (incl. S & H)

- _____ *Guitar Gabriel, Deep in the South*
Only \$15 with any other CD purchase
- _____ *Aljo Mae Hinton, Honey Babe*
- _____ *Beverly Watkins, Back in Business*
- _____ *Cops, Luke & Cool John, Outsider Lounge Music*
- _____ *Carl Rutherford, Turn off the Fear*
- _____ *Cool John Ferguson*
- _____ *Castle Stark, Sugar Man*
- _____ *Caro Mae Bryant, Born With The Blues*
- _____ *Eddie Tiger, Route 66*
- _____ *Essie Mae Brooks, Rain In Your Life*
- _____ *Ezra Baker, Railroad Bill*
- _____ *George Higgin, Torboro Blues*
- _____ *Guitar Gabriel, Volume One*
- _____ *Jerry "Boogie" McCain, This Stuff Just Kills Me*
- _____ *Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Unplugged*
- _____ *John Dee Holman, Bull Durham Blues*
- _____ *Noel Patton, Frison Blues*
- _____ *Preston Fulj, Sowell Worker*

Various Artists:

- _____ *A Living Post*
- _____ *Come So Far*
- _____ *Blues Come to Georgia*
- _____ *Expressin the Blues*

New Releases

- _____ *Little Pink Anderson, Carolina Bluesmen*
- _____ *Lightnin' Walth, Ragged But Right*



_____ **Music Maker T-Shirt** : \$25 each (incl. S&H)

_____ **CD's** (incl. S & H)

_____ **Music Maker Poster** - 16" x 20" reproduction of photograph of David Johnson's hands by Axel Klammer (quality suitable for framing) \$24.00 (incl. S & H)

_____ **Post Card Book** - A collection of 30 6 1/2" x 4 1/4" photographs by Axel Klammer \$22.00 (incl. S & H)

_____ **Cash Donation** (fully tax deductible).

_____ **Total** (International donors add \$7 USD for shipping on premium items)

Note: Due to IRS regulations the deductible portion of a donation is reduced by the retail value of premiums received by donors.

I am making my donation by Check/MO MC/VISA
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MUSIC MAKER

Blue Grass Festival of the Arts
www.musicmaker.org

4052 Summer Lane • Hillsborough, NC 27541
(919) 640-1454 FAX (919) 640-2397

Music Maker Blues Revival is high-energy, non-stop performance that is a sensation in itself. Mudcat, our M.C., revs up the event with his infectious stage and wailing slide-guitar. Cootie Stark's salutation to the audience gets the crowd on their feet before he even touches his guitar. Eddie Tiger keeps the energy high with his smooth vocal style, playing favorites on his piano accompanied by the band. Cool John Ferguson steps out and slays the audience with his stunning virtuosity. Bringing the show to its zenith is our headliner Beverly "Guitar" Watkins. No one's ever seen a woman play guitar like that. On another night be master harmonica player Jerry "Boogie" McCain literally blowing the

crowd away. The Revival always concludes with a final jam. These master musicians in a continuous flow of energy and the music is seamless with no long, boring and stops. Enriched and stoked, people leave knowing they have witnessed something very special, their lives have been touched.

With such a wealth of gifted artists available to tour, Music Maker Blues Revival is a talent to offer. Festivals can easily fill four to five stage spots with our experienced, professional road show having traveled to cities such as Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, Phoenix, Austin, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New Orleans, Seattle, Birmingham, Philadelphia, Charlotte, Denver, New York

Featured Artists



Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Atlanta, Georgia is a world-class harmonica player, world leader in the 5th and 6th and is one of the greatest power harp players in the world.



Beverly "Guitar" Watkins is a guitar slinger who blows the crowd away with her unparalleled brand of blues.



Cool John Ferguson is a famous electric guitarist from Beaufort, North Carolina whose mastery of his instrument pleads him among the world's greatest guitarists.



Cootie Stark of Grenada, Saint Croix is the King of the Piedmont Blues. His infectious rhythms, intense mouth and huge stage presence lead his audience on a journey through the Southern bluesman's struggle to the Promised Land.



Harmonica Eddie Tiger is a blues master who has toured for 30 years and is one of the best.

Carolina Classics



John Deas Holleman, Georgia is a world-class guitarist with a style as rich as his soul.



John Deas Holleman of Durham, North Carolina has traveled with his blues throughout the U.S., Europe and Africa. His music is reminiscent of Blind Boy Fuller and Captain Hopkins in their best.



George Higgin of Tarboro, North Carolina is a legend guitar player in the new Eastern Carolina blues tradition.



Captain Luke's interpretation of classic R&B, traditional and country blues is his rich, dry baritone and masterful guitar leading to Cool John Ferguson is truly someone or other.



Little Pink Anderson is a blues medicine show with her blues. Pink Anderson at the age of 100 years old says she has had a long and hard life.



Bill of Columbia South
left, "They call me the Blue
man I can play all the styles,
A, reggae, Piedmont Blues
them all!"



Mazama Hayes steps out of the
Wisconsin blues drink house scene with
his pure juke blues.



Alex Reid of Louisville performs
reggae and blues with the presence of
a rock star.



"Lightnin'" Wells has been performing
American roots music for 25 years.



Willie King from Fort
Ridgely, leads his own
charged jams along with
electric guitar and his
great band.



Willie King plays rock blues
in New Orleans.



Roy Roberts performs acoustic R&B and
sings blues that gets everyone on
their feet and dancing.



Nobody plays a fiddle like 74 year old
Neal Patterson. "I'll never stop the
Blues knocking on my door and they
won't leave." His dad taught him to
sing and play as a child in the
country outside of Athens, Georgia.



Carl Hodge from Satula, Virginia is a
wonderful country blues guitarist
and singer.



Carl Rutherford of VA
is a unique blend of Rock
blues and farming music.
He's a true American!

Sisters of the South



"Waltman" Ballou performs
a guitar style of the South
a full country.



Algie Mae Hixson plays guitar and
sings in the old Carolina style that she
learned from her mother. She is a fine
multi-talented who duets audiences playing
the guitar behind her head while singing.



Cora Mae Bryson of O'Fallon,
Georgia is the daughter of blues legend
Curley Bryson. Her performances of
her father's and her own songs
accompanied by expert Georgia blues
guitarist Joshua Jordan make this a
very entertaining set.



Essie Mae Brooks of Perry, Georgia
performs her own gospel songs. Her
deep Georgia country roots make her
perfect for any stage.



Hester Pauline and
Gibbs meet at a concert
where African music is
the early African American
musicians playing together.

Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.
4052 Summer Lane, Hillsborough, NC 27278

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Music Maker Relief Foundation

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 music tradition, be 50 years or older and have an annual income less than \$18,000. Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. is a tax exempt public charity under IRC 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
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Daniel "Mudcat" Dalton
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