Music Maker Relief Foundation helps the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern music gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. We present these musical traditions to the world so American culture will flourish and be preserved for future generations.

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.

Board of Directors
Timothy Duffy - President
Denise Duffy
Taj Mahal
Ryan Costello
Daniel “Mudcat” Dudeck
Bill Puckett
Henry Slayder
Blane Wright

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 Fe
Ken Shepherd
Kenny Wayne Shepherd
Carolina Chocolate Drops
Jerry Harrison
Pete Townshend
Lightnin' Wells
John Price
David Thurber, Jr. MD
Bill Krasilovsky
Rick Savitt

BECOME A MEMBER and HELP keep the BLUEST of the BLUES alive!

Newsletter Credits: Written by Timothy & Denise Duffy, Amy Weaver; Geraldine Degiron; Design by Amy Weaver; Edited by Joann Clarke. The Music Maker Rag is published by Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. email info@musicmaker.org © 2006 MMRF. All Rights Reserved.
Dear Friends,

Music Maker Relief Foundation helps the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern music gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. We present these musical traditions to the world so American culture will flourish and be preserved for future generations.

Today, the Music Maker Relief Foundation’s comprehensive programs have nourished over 200 musicians living throughout the United States. Our programs have transitioned artists who were homeless and jobless to having homes and careers touring the world. We economically stabilize artists too infirm to leave their home by sending a monthly stipend to provide for food and medicine. We have released over 70 CDs and worked on many film projects so that these artists’ music and lives are documented for future generations. We help artists actualize their dreams for their personal advancement and to enrich the lives of music fans around the world.

Acting on our vision to change how elderly pioneers of our Southern musical traditions are treated, we have brought the world’s attention to artists who would have never been noticed. As a result, Music Maker Relief Foundation is making musical history.

Each day throughout the year, we are contacted by music fans the world over. Each week we receive leads on incredible traditional musician. Each month we have media coverage of previously unknown artists; concerts are scheduled and we provide for artists who will never perform again. Every year, we work with new artists and give them the confidence and the tools to succeed with a career in music and make them realize all these things we are working for can come true.

Please support the Music Maker Relief Foundation. Renew your membership or become a Music Maker Member today! Take advantage of the $50,000 Membership Challenge, made possible by a group of devoted donors, to match your gift.

With warm regards,

Timothy & Denise Duffy

Spring 2007 MM Rag • 1
Musician Sustenance

THE NEED:
A majority of the artists we serve are over 65 years old and have an annual income of $8,000 a year. Providing basic life needs such as housing, utilities, medical, transportation and food within this budget is difficult for them. When a crisis arises such as a natural disaster or medical problems, times get very difficult. Under these conditions it is hard to concentrate on their music.

THE SOLUTION:
Musician Sustenance program to provide grants to meet basic life needs and emergency relief.

Eddie Kirkland

Eddie Kirkland was born in Jamaica in 1924 and raised in Alabama from age two until he went off with the Sugar Girls Medicine show at twelve. His teens brought him to Indiana and the North, eventually settling in Detroit. There he toured and recorded with John Lee Hooker for seven and a half years. They made a solid team before parting in the 60’s.

Kirkland moved to Georgia, where he was bandleader for Otis Redding. Continuous road tours had him working with Ruth Brown, Little Richard, Ben King, Little Johnnie Taylor and many more greats. In 1962, Kirkland recorded “It’s the Blues Man” for Prestige, reissued by Fantasy as a Blues collector’s item. Kirkland’s hit the “Hawg” recorded by the Stax/Volt label, earned him national celebrity. Since this time, Eddie has traveled throughout the world, recorded on many labels and at 83 years old, he is still touring.

Haskell “Whistlin’ Britches” Thompson

We met Haskell “Whistlin’ Britches” Thompson 10 years ago when Captain Luke let us know there was a guy who was an incredible “clicker”. He was home-less and living in shelters, cardboard boxes and aban-doned houses. With the help of Music Maker, Haskell soon moved in with Captain Luke. Music Maker has been able to support Haskell over the years and in return, he shares clicking and his unique dance moves with the world. We recently were able to document him in our DVD, “Drink House to Church House, Volume 1.” He has always brought a new layer to the music, and is the biggest fan of Music Maker supporters. That’s why we were devastated to learn he would need to have his leg amputated because of diabetes this fall.

Haskell is always telling people he fears what his life would be like without the assistance of the generous Music Maker supporters. When he called the office stating he couldn’t make a gig because he could no longer walk, we called on Music Maker volunteer John Creech to take him to the Emergency Room. Haskell was reluctant to go because he knew the outcome could change his life. After his leg was amputated he found it hard to navigate through the intricacies of the medical system. “I didn’t know what to do. I thought I was going to be home-less again and without a leg, I didn’t know where to go. I didn’t even have Medicare.”

That’s when we called Dr. David Thurber, an Advisory Board Member and the Medical Director for the Cary Hospital Medicine Services in North Carolina. Dr. Thurber helps Music Maker artists break down barriers in the health care system; he helped Carl Rutherford donate his body to science and worked with Cootie Stark’s doctors to make his final days peaceful ones.

Dr. Thurber called the hospital and worked with Haskell’s doctors and social worker to move him to an assisted living program and get on-going physical therapy. Haskell is enjoying his “Cadillac room” and is no longer worried about homelessness, his diabetes, or going hungry. He now has Medicare and will never enter a hospital uninsured again. David states, “It’s just nice to have such a positive influence on someone’s care.”
Boo Hanks (b. 1927) is a great Piedmont blues artist. The unique thing about Boo is that we all thought we knew every great Piedmont blues artist around. Then one day Tony Young, a fervent MM supporter, brought Boo to our headquarters. When this 80-year-old man picked up an old Gibson guitar and started to play, we were stunned. Boo performed the purist Blind Boy Fuller style blues that we had heard in years.

Boo learned how to play from his father, a tobacco farming musician and contemporary of Blind Boy Fuller. Boo made music for dances and community functions. He never considered playing professionally or recording.

We discussed with Boo how important his art was and what a special and tremendous talent he had and that it should be known of and celebrated. We suggested he could increase his income in the process and he was very open to the notion. We soon granted Boo a passport and traveling with us to Europe one day.

Boo is awed that 80-year-old Captain Luke travels to France, Argentina and has been working with MM for years. Boo is now considering applying for a passport and traveling with us to Europe one day.

Benton Flippen

Benton Flippen (b. 1920) stems from an extremely influential generation of old-time musicians, a group of men from Surry County, North Carolina by the names of Fred Cockeram, Tommy Jarrel, Earnest East and Kyle Creed whose music inspired generations of old-time music enthusiasts. The Fiddlers Conventions at which these men performed in total obscurity in their youths continue to flourish in modern times. The musicians in this group of music makers each forged their own strongly unique styles in the '30s and '40s. Only Benton still performs for square dances every weekend and in 2007, at the internationally celebrated Mt. Airy Fiddler Convention, will stand as the sole survivor of this fraternity. Benton still competes, leading his band, the Smokey Valley Boys, that he formed in the '60s, disbanded in '85, and reformed at the turn of this century.

Benton is 86, yet his music is spirited as a young child and he still pursues his music with strong interest. Music Maker has been able to help Benton arrange engagements and will soon be issuing a new CD for him to sell at local square dances and summer festivals.

Adolphus Bell

Adolphus Bell has been touring as a one-man band for more than 35 years. During this time, he traveled from town to town in his station wagon playing on street corners, clubs and private parties. We had heard of Adolphus but could never locate him, until a few years ago when we were given a telephone number in Birmingham, Alabama.

"Tim Duffy called me up and asked me if I wanted to perform at a festival down in Arkansas, he never met me but he sent me $400 to get my car fixed and to meet him down at this event." Upon seeing Adolphus perform, we knew he was truly the world's greatest one-man band. We also learned he had been homeless for the past 15 years and had been living in his van.

Within a short time, record producer Ardie Dean and Tim Duffy issued a tremendous record of Adolphus. HendersonBromstead Art designed an awesome record cover and soon after, comic book illustrator legend Gary Dumm had created a comic strip for this blues bard. Adolphus was soon being requested for festivals in Australia and Europe and through the advocacy of Ryan Costello in Washington, he soon had the passport that had been denied him for years.

Since this time, Adolphus has toured overseas 10 times, performed with Taj Mahal in Costa Rica and on a Blues Cruise and this year is scheduled to tour South America, Europe and the United States. With the income from touring and CD sales, Adolphus has rented an apartment, bought a mobile phone, maintains a good running car and every month he has something to look forward to.

"I really cannot believe how my life has changed since I started working with the Music Makers, they have bought me teeth, got my guitar out of the pawnshop, and I finally have a career after 35 years of struggling. The old people used to tell me, good things come to those who wait. I thank Jesus Christ for pulling me through and I am dedicating my life to doing the best I can with the gifts that God has given me."
To download a PDF of this article, visit: musicmaker.org • 4

Cool John Ferguson

Visit our website: musicmaker.org
for up to date event listings
Carolina Chocolate Drops (LDD)

March
March 12 - CCD will be at NCSU’s Library in Raleigh, NC
March 13-15 Pura Fe will be touring through France and will appear at College Courtbert Pierrefitte sur Seine, France 7:30 pm at ENM, 17 Rue F Pitterrand, 93380 Pierrefitte sur Seine, Workshop 2:30-4 pm 14th at Eglise Ste Therese des Joncherolles Pierrefitte sur Seine, France Pura Fe with Otis Taylor at 8:30pm, 21 Av Nungesser, 93380 Pierrefitte sur Seine
March 16 - CCD at Pittsburgh General Store in Pittsboro, NC
March 21 - Pura Fe will be at the University of Tennessee
March 24 - CCD at Jack of the Wood in Asheville, NC
March 30-31 MMRF Revue at the Festival d'amis Musiques de jazz et d'Auteurs Amiens, France. This festival welcomes Pura Fe, Macavine Hayes, Alabama Slim and many others known to blues music fans throughout Europe. This year, we plan to solidify relationships with record companies in Argentina and Australia.
March 32 Chicken Raid in Atlanta, GA at the Northside Tavern, Annual benefit honoring the late Atlanta country blues legend Mr. Frank Edwards (1909-2002). Come out to the Northside Tavern for an incredible day of music!
March 30- 31 Mudcat CD Release Party, this 2 day event will be in Atlanta, GA at the Northside Tavern and is sure to be a fun time!
April
April 5 - 6 CCD at the Atlanta History Center in Atlanta GA
April 7 - CCD at Crimson Moon Cafe in Daihona, GA
April 12-15 CCD will be the part of the Alabama Folk Festival in Juneau, Alaska
April 19 - CCD at the Artscenter in Carrboro, NC 300 G E Main Street
April 20 - CCD will be performing with the Chuck Dance Davis Ensemble in Durham, NC
April 20 - Shakori Grass Roots Festival Pot Sicker, Ron Hunter and Lightin’ Wells will be playing this festival April 21st the Carolina Chocolate Drops will be playing
April 21 - John Dee Holoman will be playing at UNC Chapel Hill
April 27-29 CCD will be performing at Merlefest in Wilkesboro, NC
May
May 3 - MM Revue in France at Aulnay-Sous-Bois, Espace Culturel
May 4 MM Revue in Monthey, Switzerland at the Theatre Crochetan
May 9 - MM Revue at New Morning in Paris, France
May 10 - MM Revue in Sochaux, France
May 10-14 MMRF Revue will be traveling through Switzerland
May 11 - MM Revue in Metz, France
May 11-12 CCD at the Lake Eden Arts Festival in Black Mountain, NC
May 13 - CCD at Postmaster’s House in Abbevile, NC
May 13-14 - MM Revue at Le Petit Faucheux in Tours, France
May 18-19 CCD will be at the Hcockhocking Folk Festival in Nelsonville, Ohio
May 25 - CCD at the Paramount Theater in Bristol,VA
May 26-27 CCD will be the gathering in the Gap at Big Stone Gap, VA
June
June 3 - CCD at the Mount Airy Fiddler’s Convention, Join them at 5pm for Cocktails, Shirts and Music
June 7 - CCD will be at Weaver Street Market in Carrboro, NC
June 8 - CCD at the Charlie Poole Music Festival in Eden, NC
June 9 - Benton Flippen at the Wilkesboro Heritage Museum in Wilkesboro, NC
June 10 - CCD will be at the Detroit Festival of the Arts, in Detroit, MI
June 21st - George Higgins will be at the Wilson Medical Center
June 23 - CCD at the Stagville Plantation in Durham, NC
July
July 1st - Drink Small will be playing at the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival
July 4 - CCD will be at the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes, Port Townsend, WA
July 7-8 CCD will be at the Winnipeg Folk Festival in Winnipeg Canada
July 14-23 MM Revue in Gent, Belgium
July 21-22 CCD will be at the Ihawia Music Festival in Marquette, MI
July 24 - CCD will be at the Swannanoa Gathering in Asheville, NC
July 25 - CCD will be playing the River to River Festival in New York, NY
July 26 - CCDs at the Ban Rhythm and Blues Festival at Mecetropolis Plaza in Brooklyn, NY
September
September 7-9 Tim Duffy, Ardie Dean, and Soul with Albert White, Beverly “Gui tar” Watkins, Adolshus Bell and Mudcat, Roots N Blues N BBQ, Columbia, MO
Want to book a Music Maker Artist? Contact us at 919-643-2456 or email us.booking@musicmaker.org
Warehouse Blues Series will be Every Friday in June, July and August at the West Village Apartments in Durham, NC from 6-8pm
**New Orleans Musicians’ Fund**

**THE NEED:**
Over 3,000 musicians in New Orleans were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. They found themselves with no family support, jobless in strange cities, desperate, not able to navigate FEMA and needed assistance in rebuilding their lives.

**THE SOLUTION:**
The New Orleans Musician’s Fund provides assistance to musicians affected by Hurricane Katrina. MMRF has worked with 100 NOMF artists providing cash grants, housing, instrument replacement and helping them navigate other nonprofit and government aid programs.

---

**Slewfoot and Cary B.**

Slewfoot has been performing in New Orleans since 1972. When Katrina hit, he was in West Virginia with his partner Cary B., recuperating from coronary bypass surgery. Not knowing if they had a home to return to in New Orleans and not allowed to return, Slew and Cary resided at our guesthouse for several weeks as he recovered. As soon as it was possible, this couple returned to New Orleans. MMRF made grants for rent, instruments, performance subsidies and the creation of a new CD. Slewfoot and Cary B. remain in their beloved city and are committed to the struggle of keeping the New Orleans music scene vibrant.

---

**Little Freddie King**

New Orleans blues patriarch Little Freddie King lost everything during Hurricane Katrina. He could not evacuate because his only form of transportation was a bicycle. As the flood waters surged in his home in the 9th ward, Freddie barely escaped with his life. We were fortunate to connect him with Gibson Guitars who donated him a top of the line Gibson B.B. King Lucille style guitar. We were able to help him with clothing, medicine, shows and much support with his relocation to Dallas, Texas. When his FEMA housing support ends in August we will help him find a new home.

---

**Alabama Slim**

This disaster also brought us close to blues artist Alabama Slim, who saved Little Freddie King’s life during the hurricane. We were able to assist Slim with clothing, emergency funds and most importantly, getting back to work. With NOMF grants he recorded his first CD at the age of 72 and is featured in our Drink House to Church House series. We assisted with his temporary move to Dallas, Texas and relocation back to New Orleans this winter. This January, we booked Slim to perform 18 shows in 20 days throughout France. He heads back to Europe in March and has more dates booked overseas this summer.
The organization needs resources and expertise in the music industry and other professional communities.

**THE SOLUTION:**

**Board of Directors and Advisory Board**

**Board of Directors**
Timothy Duffy - President, Denise Duffy, Taj Mahal, Ryan Costello, Daniel “Mudcat” Dudeck, Bill Puckett, Henry Slyker, Blane Wright

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

**Bonnie Raitt**
Advisory Board Member Bonnie Raitt, pictured here with Denise Duffy, has been a tremendous help to the Music Maker Relief Foundation. She has been a good friend to women artists Jessie Mae Hemphill, Willa Mae Buckner, Precious Bryant and Beverly “Guitar” Watkins. Each year, Bonnie donates and supports our mission. This year Bonnie, Eric Clapton and Derek Trucks each wrote a letter of support for our preservation grant proposal to the Grammy Foundation.

**Kenny Wayne Shepherd**
Advisory Board Member Kenny Wayne Shepherd has supported us with performances at the past two Congressional Blues Festivals and has pledged to donate the profits of his new CD/DVD “10 Days Out, Blues from the Backroads” to MMRF.

**Taj Mahal**
Taj Mahal has been a major recording artist since his debut album in 1967. Over the past 40 years, Taj Mahal has been a tireless preacher of American roots music, recording 40 albums, receiving six Grammy nominations and winning two Grammy awards. His career has spanned acting in television and movies; scoring for television, plays, movies; and recording children’s records. Much of his early work in the 70’s set the groundwork for the present-day world music scene. He recently was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music from the University of Massachusetts. Taj Mahal serves on our board of directors, and has used his influence and expertise to guide this organization. In 1996 Taj met Tim Duffy in Los Angeles and soon introduced MMRF to the likes of B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Dan Akroyd, John Landis and other celebrities. Over the years Taj has lead our artists on a 42-city, nationwide tour, recorded and been filmed with many MM artists, made himself available to interviews with press, and been a constant source of advice and support in the development of the organization. Each year he donates his time to host the Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Tournament. Taj Mahal takes sincere interest in the musicians of the foundation and makes significant contributions to their careers. Etta Baker, Cootie Stark, Neal Pattman, Beverly “Guitar” Watkins, Cool John Ferguson, Pura Fè and the Carolina Chocolate Drops are just a few of the artists Taj Mahal has tirelessly championed to the music press and industry with immense impact.

**Carolina Chocolate Drops**
The Carolina Chocolate Drops have taken our mission to heart. When not on the road, they visit 87-year fiddler old Joe Thompson and blues artist John Dee Holeman every week. The elders of MMRF are brought to tears upon meeting these remarkable young African Americans. John Dee relates, “I never thought in my lifetime I would meet a young generation that would carry this music on.” Dom Flemons, Rhiannon Giddens and Justin Robinson are introducing MMRF to a whole new audience.

**B.B. King and Eric Clapton**
B.B. King and Eric Clapton have been active supporters of MMRF since 1996.

**Bill Puckett**
Bill Puckett has served on MMRF board for eight years. He was instrumental in organizing the historic Winston Blues Revival tour and campaign and many other successful events. Bill was instrumental in our NOMF campaign and his marketing expertise has been invaluable throughout the years.
Donors

**THE NEED:**

MMRF needs resources to fulfill its mission

**THE SOLUTION:**

The support of over 6,000 MMRF Members, family foundations, corporations and music festivals.

Volunteers

**THE NEED:**

Musician support organizations like the Music Maker Relief Foundation are always stretching to the needs of the musicians they serve given finite resources and manpower. On a limited budget, it takes passion, creativity and sacrifice to make a program work.

**THE SOLUTION:**

Every year, dozens of Music Maker volunteers donate their time and services to help recipient Music Maker artists. Many of these volunteers help us in our programs for years at a time learning invaluable life lessons from these great musicians or feeling good about helping at our offices to keep the organization growing.

Lauren Hart and Kate Lindroos

Hampshire College students Lauren Hart and Kate Lindroos came to our headquarters in Hillsborough, NC to volunteer 36 hours per week during January 2007.

Their responsibilities were focused on the documentation aspects of our Cultural Access program. We have an extensive archive of field recordings of tradition Southern music made over the past 20 years on a variety of formats. The collection of original media was in great need of organization. This was a large and rather daunting project. Working as a team, Kate and Lauren rolled up their sleeves and plowed into hundreds of compact discs, digital reels, DAT tapes, mini discs of archival recordings and got the collection shelved in alphabetical order, labeled and logged into our database. To quote Timothy Duffy, “Those girls changed my life; I can actually find what I need!”

The Hampshire team also implemented a new organizational system for our archive of press clippings and assisted in the production of our upcoming newsletter, and helped the rest of the staff complete mailings, fill CD orders and organize the office space.

Lauren’s interest in music lead us to enlist her to transfer field recordings from digital tape to compact disc and to enter the recordings into our database. Kate’s research and writing talents were employed to glean through press clippings, archival notes and the web, to construct biographies of several artists to be mounted in our website.

Lauren and Kate exhibited the utmost dedication and showed a genuine commitment in our service work. These were among the most successful internships in the three-year history of our program.
New Releases

John Dee Homan with the Waifs Band:
With soaring vocals of sisters Donna and Vikki and guitarist Josh along with rhythm section Ben Franz and Dave Macdonald, blues great John Dee Homan.

Boo Hakos: Pickin’ Low Cotton
Performs pure Blind Boy Fuller Piedmont blues!

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

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

Sankofa Strings: Colored Aristocracy
Blues, Stringband and Jazz featuring the incredible percussion and banjo of Sulie Greg Wilson.

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

Book with CD: $30
The story of the Music Maker comes to life with Music Maker: Songs from the Roots of America. With a forward written by B.B. King, this beautiful collection of photographs and writings showcases 70 musicians and includes a 23-track CD. 208 pages, 11” x 8”, 160 color photographs. Available at musicmaker.org. For information on ordering this book please see the back cover. For information on ordering this book please see the back cover. For information on ordering this book please see the back cover.

The Whole Nine Yards: $900
Want it all? You can have all our CDs, DVDs and books for $900.

Visit us at musicmaker.org
Is your membership current? Each year we ask you to renew your support to Music Maker to keep our vital programs working. This year your donation can do TWICE as much to keep the music coming. A small group of our most faithful and generous donors has a challenge for you. Renew your membership in 2007 and they will match your gift dollar for dollar to the tune of $50,000!!!

Music Maker Relief Foundation is the leading nonprofit helping the true pioneers of southern music meet their day-to-day needs and preserve their traditional style of music. Music Maker assists over 200 recipient artists, and with your support we could expand those numbers to serve many more musicians in need.

Membership at any level guarantees your subscription to the Music Maker Rag and a very cool window decal for your car, home or office that let’s people know you are doing your part to keep the blues of the blues alive!

Don’t miss this opportunity to DOUBLE your donation; you can become a member for as little as $25 per year (and do $50 worth of good). With your help, we can grow this organization, and give voice to more forgotten heroes of southern music! Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to support our mission. Every member helps preserve this music for future generations. Help ensure Music Maker is able to carry out its mission in 2007, renew or join today!!

Help keep the true pioneers of southern traditional music alive, join Music Maker in 2007 and receive your free membership decal.

$25 Friend
$50 Supporter
$100 Advocate
$250 Patron
$500 Partner
$1,000 Provider
$2,500 Conservator
$5,000 Gabe’s Circle

Macavine Hayes wants you to become a member!  ©Duffy

---

**Donation Form**

Please return this form with your payment in enclosed Business Reply Envelope or stamped envelope to Music Maker, PO Box 72222, Durham NC 27722

**Membership:**

Please make me a member of Music Maker for 2007!

___ $25 Friend
___ $50 Supporter
___ $100 Advocate
___ $250 Patron
___ $500 Partner
___ $1,000 Provider
___ $2,500 Conservator
___ $5,000 Gabe’s Circle

All Membership donations are fully tax deductible.

**Total:**

---

**Merchandise:**

Include the quantity and name of CD you’d like to purchase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Merchandise Shipping ($5/address $10 incl)

**Total:**

---

**Payment:**

**Total:**

___ Check included
Payable to Music Maker Relief Foundation

___ Credit Card
___ Master Card ___ Visa ___ Am Ex

Card #: / / / / / / / / / / / /
Expiration Date: / / / / / / / / / / / /
Last 3#s on back of card:

___ Bill Me

---

**Billing Address:**

Name:
Company:
Address:
City:
State / Zip:
E-mail:
Phone:

**Shipping Address:**

___ same as billing address
Name:
Company:
Address:
City:
State / Zip:
E-mail:
Phone:
Gift Message:

---

---

---

---
Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Results

Congratulations to the winners of the 5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Tournament! MMRF hosted 22 anglers at The Zan- cudo Lodge in Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica. There were 81 sailfish caught and released in 3 days of superb fishing that also featured catches of dorado, rooster fish, and yellow fin tuna. The big winners were:

**Biggest Fish – Steve Sweitzer of Columbia, MO** with the largest sailfish of the week.

**Most Sailfish – David White of Houston, TX** who pulled in 14 sailfish.

The Sportsmanship Award went to Charlie Adams of Greenville, NC for his unbridled enthusiasm for the tournament and for hauling in 11 sailfish and a very tasty dorado.

A special Lifetime Achievement Award was given to fisherman Wally Suter of Manassas, VA to honor his 5 years of competition in the Tournament.

The winners of the Calculata were for Most Sailfish - Day #1: Wally White. Day #2: Charlie Adams. Day #3: David White and Most Sailfish Overall - David White. A special thank you to David and Charlie for their generous donations to MMRF.

Has off to Taj Mahal for bringing us together once again! We would also like to thank MMRF board members Mudcat, Henry Sklyer, Blane Wright, and Bill Puckett and fisherman Alan Mayfield for their hard work and support of the event.

Mike Nardulli of Patchogue, NY had to join us late and caught 5 sailfish and a 220 lb. black Marlin the day after the competition.

The concert on the 8th featured Mudcat, Adolphus Bell, Little Freddie King, Tres Amigos, and the Taj Mahal Trio. It was attended by over 900 enthusiastic fans!

Many thanks to hosts Greg Mufson and Mike Gibson and their staff (especially Eber & Estoban) for taking such good care of us and to all the residents of Playa Zancudo for sharing their slice of paradise with Music Maker!

We are already making plans for the 6th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Tournament February 10th - 16th, 2008! Contact fish@musicmaker.org for more info.

**News From France**

Fin janvier, le public français a accueilli Alabama Slim et Beverly “Guitar” Watkins pour un concert au New Morning, suivi d’une tournée dans les villes de l’Hexagone pendant 2 semaines. Leur approche différente du blues, l’accoustique mélée de l’un et l’électricité épicée de l’autre ont fait leur succès et les Français n’en redemandent!

Music Maker sera à nouveau sur les routes de France dès la mi-mars avec Pura Fé, ainsi qu’à la fin du mois avec la trilogie de concerts qui rassemblera plusieurs artistes de la fondation, …avant leur retour au festival estivaux à partir de juin!

Pour plus d’informations sur les tournées en France: www.musicmaker.org/events ou donations@musicmaker.org

**Artists’ Notes**

Pink Anderson has diabetes and was told by his doctor that pecans would be good snack because they are low in sugar. He called up MMRF and told us he needed pecans but cannot find them in South Dakota. He’d like shelled, roasted, and un-salted please. Send to: Pink Anderson, 807 Cottage Ave #30, Vermillion SD 57069

Freddie King, Adolphus Bell, Mudcat had a great time in Costa Rica at the 5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Tournament.

Support Skeeter Brandon! Check out skeeterbrandon.com for events and news.

Precious Bryant had a great conversation with our interns from Hampshire College, Kate and Lauren. Precious is still battling with her leg, but enjoys her time. She was very happy to receive a Precious Bryant CD. Keep an eye on the website, and we’ll let you know once it is released!

Preston Fulp, Guitar Gabriel, Etta Baker, Cora Mae Bryant, Sonny Boy King, and Clyde Langford are just a few of the many new artists that have been added to our Artist Roster. Check out our website and click on Artist Roster to learn more about these incredible musicians!

We’ve gotten quite a few calls interested in hearing Lee Gates perform! Lee Gates loves to talk to his fans! He plays the jam at Conway’s Bar in Milwaukee, WI every Wednesday. We suggest contacting Conway’s at 2127 S. Holmgren St, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

Music Maker recently received a $25,000 grant from The Blues Music Foundation, a nonprofit organization launched during 2003’s Year of the Blues celebration. Music Maker will use this money to complete their documentary film, “Drink House to Church House”.

**News From France**

**News From France**

Fin janvier, le public français a accueilli Alabama Slim et Beverly “Guitar” Watkins pour un concert au New Morning, suivi d’une tournée dans les villes de l’Hexagone pendant 2 semaines. Leur approche différente du blues, l’accoustique mélée de l’un et l’électricité épicée de l’autre ont fait leur succès et les Français n’en redemandent!

Music Maker sera à nouveau sur les routes de France dès la mi-mars avec Pura Fé, ainsi qu’à la fin du mois avec la trilogie de concerts qui rassemblera plusieurs artistes de la fondation, …avant leur retour au festival estivaux à partir de juin!

Pour plus d’informations sur les tournées en France: www.musicmaker.org/events ou donations@musicmaker.org

**Artists’ Notes**

Pink Anderson has diabetes and was told by his doctor that pecans would be good snack because they are low in sugar. He called up MMRF and told us he needed pecans but cannot find them in South Dakota. He’d like shelled, roasted, and un-salted please. Send to: Pink Anderson, 807 Cottage Ave #30, Vermillion SD 57069

Freddie King, Adolphus Bell, Mudcat had a great time in Costa Rica at the 5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Tournament.

Support Skeeter Brandon! Check out skeeterbrandon.com for events and news.

Precious Bryant had a great conversation with our interns from Hampshire College, Kate and Lauren. Precious is still battling with her leg, but enjoys her time. She was very happy to receive a grant to pay her light bill. “Because of MM I am not in the dark!”

The Carolina Chocolate Drops were recently on NPR’s Weekend Edition Sunday. Many thanks to producer, Karen Michel, for this wonderful story.

We got a call from Drink Small the other day and he said he was moving. He’s a little anxious about this move, as he’s acquired a lot of things over the years. If you are in the Columbia, SC area and want to help a legend move, email info@musicmaker.org

The legendary Chicken Raid, a music festival honoring Mr. Frank Edwards will be held March 24th. This festival is put together by Music Maker Board Member Mudcat, and brings in MM musicians Eddie Tigner, Ebbie Mae Brooks, Beverly “Guitar” Watkins, Adolphus Bell, Tommy Brown, Mudcat, and many other talents. This is held at the Northside Tavern in Adanta, GA. Visit northsidetavern.com

Pura Fé will be traveling to France in June and is excited about her French CD to be released in May. Visit musicmaker.org for updates.

We are finishing up the new Benton Flippen CD. Keep an eye on the website, and we’ll let you know once it is released!

Preston Fulp, Guitar Gabriel, Etta Baker, Cora Mae Bryant, Sonny Boy King, and Clyde Langford are just a few of the many new artists that have been added to our Artist Roster. Check out our website and click on Artist Roster to learn more about these incredible musicians!

We’ve gotten quite a few calls interested in hearing Lee Gates perform! Lee Gates loves to talk to his fans! He plays the jam at Conway’s Bar in Milwaukee, WI every Wednesday. We suggest contacting Conway’s at 2127 S. Holmgren St, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

Music Maker recently received a $25,000 grant from The Blues Music Foundation, a nonprofit organization launched during 2003’s Year of the Blues celebration. Music Maker will use this money to complete their documentary film, “Drink House to Church House”.

George Higgs gave his Drink Small first full public performance since his serious ill- ness over one year ago at R.A. Fountain Store near his home in Tarboro, NC. George played both the guitar and harmonica and sang two full sets of his familiar Piedmont blues numbers to a small but appreciative crowd. George stated that he felt confident enough to play some weekend gigs close to home as he continues his dialysis treatments two times a week.

The Carolina Chocolate Drops have been visiting John Dee Holman about once a week to learn new picks. John Dee enjoys the energy of having these young musicians come around.

Sol has played bass for years with Music Maker, but his band the Sol Creech Band, is amazing to watch. This band lays down a heavy groove! Soul fluidly tears out blues, jazz, and reggae, delivered with deep Southern soul. Visit solcreechband.com and see if they are touring in your area.

When you visit Greenville Memorial Garden, in Greenville, SC you can see Cootie Stark’s gravestone. We wish to thank John Price for donating this memorial marker for his friend.

Are you on myspace? So is Music Maker! Visit our page myspace.com/musicmakerrelieffoundation and become our friend!

**Sweet Betty** had a great time with Albert White, Sol and Ardie Dean in Maneo recently at the 3rd Annual Freedman’s Colony Celebration. Special thanks to Mike Russell and Swamp Rat Productions for bringing them down.

Eddie Tigner had a great time on the blues cruise along with Mudcat, Albert White, Little Joe, Beverly “Guitar” Watkins, Pura Fé, Sol and Adolphus Bell. Many thanks to Taj Mahal for having them as his band and organizer Rosy Mazer for such an incredible event! A big thank you to the Blues Cruise and Julia Naber for raising over $3,300 for Music Maker on the cruise with their silent auction! Their support and help are helping keep the blues of the alive!

Beverly “Guitar” Watkins says she is feeling great! She’s taking care of what she eats, exercising and visiting her doctor regularly to stay fit! She thanks everyone who helped her during her recovery from her heart attack three years ago and is excited to be back in business! She suggested you go see the Blues Cruise and France and is ready to get back on the road!

“Lightnin’” Wells has a few shows coming up in the North Carolina area. Visit his website lightninwells.com for more information.

Whistlin’ Britches is doing great! He’s gained a lot of weight and is adapting to his new prosthetic leg. Captain Luke and Macavine Hayes visit him occasionally, and the three even put a show at Whistlin’ Britches assisted living facility! Thanks to all the donors who heard about Whistlin’s plight and help Music Maker with a donation.

We need you to Design our Flag! Mu- sic Maker wants to have its own flag and is looking to our supporters to help us design it...so visit musicmaker.org to learn more about this competition.

John Dee Holman’s new CD with the Waifs band has become a popular release! Make sure to check this out.

Many thanks to Ali Colleen Neff, a graduate student from UNC-Ch’s Folklore program, for all the help she offered Music Maker recently. She has struck up a friendship with Boo Hanks, and has visited him often in Buffalo Junction, VA.

Are you getting our online newsletter? If not, visit our website and sign up and get monthly up- dates on the artists and Music Maker.
Congressional Blues Festival

In 2004, Music Maker Board member Ryan Costello founded the Congressional Blues Festival in Washington, D.C. This event has brought an exciting new level of awareness to the mission of MMRF and the traditional musicians we serve. It is tremendously heartening to see our nation’s legislative community embrace our musical heritage with such unbridled enthusiasm.

The 4th Annual Congressional Blues Festival presented by Volkswagen of America will take place at the Mellon Auditorium on May 16, 2007, and will headline The Derek Trucks Band.

Derek Trucks, a MM advisory board member, who is also a guitarist with the Allman Brothers and recently toured with Eric Clapton, was just featured on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine as one of today’s “guitar gods.” While Trucks’s music is deeply rooted in the blues tradition, this 27-year-old guitar prodigy has appealed to younger audiences throughout the country. Sharing the stage that night will also be Music Maker blues sensations Mudcat (Atlanta, GA), Sweet Betty (Atlanta, GA) and Adolphus Bell (Birmingham, AL).

Just blocks away from the U.S. Capitol, this festival is unique in its ability to bring together political, corporate and public support for the same cause.

“I look forward to this celebration of American roots music each year,” says Congressman Chip Pickering (R-Miss.). “From rock’s Elvis Presley to country’s Jessie Rodgers, the blues of the Delta, Mississippi, American music and that cultural heritage can be shared regardless of politics or ideology. The Congressional Blues Festival provides a great venue to enjoy the American creative and performing spirit, while allowing the private sector to encourage, promote, and provide for, talented musicians who somehow missed corporate commercial success.”

Last year’s five-hour blues marathon rallied over 3,000 fans and 30 members of Congress and the Senate, including some who personally jammed alongside last year’s artists. Past performers include Taj Mahal Trio, Robert Randolph and the Family Band, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, and Levon Helm.

“There is no better place to honor such an important part of our American heritage and identity than in our nation’s capital,” says Ryan Costello. “This is more than just a concert. It is about recognizing the roots of all forms of modern music and supporting those who helped create it.”

Ask Amy

Do you have a question for Music Maker? Ask Amy at amy@musicmaker.org.

I really like Lee’s Boogie. I heard it on XM Radio, what a great artist/blues musician. Can you tell me what guitars and amplifiers Lee uses to get his unique sound? I think you all at Music Maker have a great Mission. I like your website.

- John Thomas, Flora Vista, NM

Thanks John! Lee is an amazing musician, and his sound is really unique. I gave Lee a call and asked him about his guitar and amp. He says he uses an Epiphone Sheridan or a Jay Tarsen guitar and he used to play a LAB amp, just like the one B.B. King uses. But when I said I wanted to know how he got his sound he said, “It ain’t the guitar it’s my fingers. I could pick up any guitar and it will make that sound. I can use any amp, any guitar and it will always sound like that. You get the sound from the wrist.” I hope this helps you out.

I was wondering how Tim Duffy met Bill Minger?

-Dan

Tim met this wonderful songwriter when he was 16 years old during a trip to Washington State where his brother was working as a fruit tramp. In 1997, Bill drifted through North Carolina and Tim and his brother Sam produced a great CD with Bill. Bill died tragically a few years ago when he was run over by a car. We hope to reissue this CD in the near future. We sent Don a copy of the CD and this was his reply.

“The mailman just brought me the CD’s you sent. I can’t thank you enough or tell you how much it means. When Bill died, I hadn’t seen him in maybe ten years, but I always thought there’d be another day when he’d come knocking at my door. I’d give him a place to crash, take him for a meal, slip him a few bucks, and then he’d be back on the road. The last time I heard from him, he left a phone message that he was coming to town with a bunch of derelicts and their dogs. The derelicts and dogs sounded over the top so I didn’t call back. I’ve regretted it ever since. Like I wrote you before, Bill was my best friend for years and years. I parted with him, lived with him, grew up with him. I read his poetry, listened to his songs, was with him when he brought his first harp, got his guitar out of hock, drank his whiskey under the railroad tracks, and counted him someone I could trust and love. The CD brought tears to my eyes.”

-Dan

CBF Sponsors

Volkswagen of America

Delta Airlines
Miller Brewing Company
Tyson Foods
Alâtria
Pacific Life Insurance
RIAA
FedEx
USP
XM Satellite Radio
Clyde’s Restaurant Group
Consumer Electronic Association
Walmart
Southern Company
American Trucking Association