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.

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Taj Mahal
Ryan Costello
Daniel "Mudcat" Dudeck
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Kenny Wayne Shepherd
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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.
Cool John Ferguson is one of five greatest guitarists I’ve heard in my career. He’s up there with Jimi Hendrix, Wes Montgomery, Duane Allman, and Denny Reinhart—Taj Mahal

Cool John Ferguson is a quiet man who usually lets his upside-down left-handed guitar wizardry do his talking. That guitar talks to a wider audience these days, as Ferguson enjoys a new career through the Music Maker Relief Foundation, a non-profit organization established in Durham, North Carolina, by Tim Duffy to provide financial aid and/ or ensure to lesser-known blues and roots musicians all over the United States.

Ferguson and Duffy met in 1995 in Beaufort, South Carolina, where Ferguson joined Music Maker a few years later. Since then he’s garnered national and international attention as a guitarist. He has released several albums for Music Maker: a self-titled debut of live songs (2001), a studio album, Guitar Heaven (2003) with Taj Mahal’s band, and a Christmas album, Cool Yule (2004). He has also played on many of Music Maker’s studio album releases, with a guitar style flexible enough to complement sounds ranging from urban blues to country blues to rock and roll, depending on what he’s picking. He also backs Music Maker musicians on stage at clubs and festivals around the country. Ferguson’s own musical style is difficult to describe. He blurs the boundaries between blues, gospel, rock, soul, jazz, country, and funk, challenging listeners—party animals to academics—to reach across the spectrum of the music he produces.
Dear Friends,

Music Maker is on the move! This July we embark on our most epic tour of Europe to date. Artists Adolphus Bell, Pura Fé, Eddie Tigner, Sol, Slewfoot, Carry B, Macavine Hayes, Essie Mae Brooks, Albert White, Beverly “Guitar” Watkins and Captain Luke will be displaying their great talents and letting the world know of our mission. Adolphus Bell, who struggles to get a gig in the states, is traveling back to France again in the fall after a successful tour was planned for April and May of 2007. These are truly special times and adventures for us.

Back home, we are delighted that the Parks and Recreation Department of Durham, North Carolina is sponsoring our 3rd Warehouse Blues Festival. The acts will perform every Friday night during the months of June, July and August. These shows are held at the West Village Apartments’ courtyard on Morgan Street. The events are from 6-8pm and are free and open to the public. Please come and enjoy these performances. We have some of our country’s most authentic blues artists playing on the same streets in which blues legends such as Blind Boy Fuller paved their trade in the 30s.

We continue with our mission to help many artists who cannot perform. We are glad to report that George Higgs is recovering from some serious health concerns and Etta Baker is doing ok at 92. Presently we are struggling to keep up with 200 recipient artists and we are doing our utmost to build our organization so we can serve these artists.

Music Maker artists John Dee Holoman, Cool John Ferguson, Macavine Hayes, Whistlin’ Brothers, Captain Luke and our board of directors were all thrilled to meet the Carolina Chocolate Drops at a recent get together at our headquarters. This group is issuing their new CD on the Music Maker series and is busily forging friendships with many MM artists. We look forward to watching their popularity grow and thank them for embracing our mission.

We applaud Music Maker director Ryan Costello for his tremendous efforts organizing the highly successful 3rd Annual Congressional Blues Festival. This is a gigantic undertaking and we thank Taj Mahal and all the artists and sponsors that helped make this event a success.

MRRF exists through the generosity of spirited individuals. Your generosity truly impacts the lives of the artists we serve. Please help us in making a donation to Music Maker today. If you have not renewed your support this year, please do so today, so we can keep sending you this Nad. We need your help, and we thank you for it.

With warm regards,

Timothy & Denise Duffy

Music Maker News

Advisory board members John Price & Kenny Wayne Shepard have (sneaky!?) helped us purchase Captain Luke’s car-secure work for artists, helps with recording projects and is brainstorming on fundraising event. Kenny Wayne was a guest at our Congressional Blues Festival and is busy putting the finishing touches on his blues film that features many MM artists.

Precious Bryant of Waverly Hall GA called in and had a song on her tongue from using the wrong brand of Sulf, she also had a sour stomach; Amy Nolander sent her some Turms and a few boxes of her CDs. Precious called up and thanked us for the help. She does not like to travel too much, but is still performing at local shows. We were also able to send her a grant so she could buy a car.

Many thanks to David Bleckley and Julian Clark who both have volunteered their time as grant writers for Music Maker! If you are interested in volunteering with MRRF email volunteer@musicmaker.org.

We thank Eric Clapton for writing MRRF’s letter of support for a Grammy Foundation Grant to archive Tim Duffy’s field recordings at the Southern Folklife Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Pura Fé has released a CD on the French Dixie Frog label. During our last trip to Paris she conducted 15 interviews in 5 days with journalists from newspapers, television and radio. Everyone involved in the project believe that Pura Fé will be greatly received. She goes on her first solo show in Germany this August. And she received Female Artist of the Year from the NAMMY’s (National American Music Awards) where she was nominated in three categories.

We wish to thank the local Carolina Friends School for their continued support and volunteering for MRRF.

Alabama Slim is patiently waiting for the release of his debut CD “The Mighty Hound”. We hope this will be thrilled to learn that Artie Dean has begun work on Albert’s first solo CD. MRRF took a trip to Pittsville, VA and met an extraordinary blues artist by the name of Peter Witcher. We introduced him to his 22-year-old cousin Billy Ceasar. They spent the afternoon on a front porch playing tunes. The Witchers have been a musical family in this tiny community going back as far as they can remember. Young Ceasar is a very talented guitarist (knowing both old-time blue music and blues styles). Pete is a great guitarist and singer; very much in the spirit of the Virginia Piedmont blues style of playing, Pete knows literally hundreds of songs. We hope that he is able to unite with other family members and friends in there 70s and 80s that are still active. We look forward to meeting many of these artists in the near future.

As Goodsearch says, “The pennies add up quickly. A charity with 10,000 supporters searching the internet just twice a day can earn more than $7000 each year.”

Our Feed An Artist for a year program is really taking off! Donor Leslie Wood, who is sponsoring John Dee Holoman, wrote to us about this new program:

“One of the things I love most about Music Maker is the personal touch you guys are so faithful to...not only with the musicians, but with their donors. I loved getting the card from John in the mail and immediately looked him up online. I feel honored to be able to help.”

Barbara Friedman also wrote to us:

“I am thrilled to help music my soul.

There are so many programs that I could choose from but this one really touched my heart.”

Many thanks to all our donors who have responded to our “Feed An Artist” program.

Corner, Tyler Hazlett, Mike Kramer, Leslie Wood, Chuck Snider, Meal Patterson, Gale Johnson, Neil and Albania Prankis, Barbara Friedman, Rich Cox, Carl Waddell, Henry & Sheryl Styler and Jenny Eggleston’s art class. These donors have made it possible for us to feed artists Captain Luke & Whistlin Britches, Macavine Hayes, John Dee Holoman, Adolphus Bell, Jessie Mae Hemphill, Sleet Brandton, Etta Baker; George Higgs, Cory Mare Bryant, Precious Bryant, and Essie Mae Brooks. And we are in the process of starting: Eddie Tigner, Beverly “Guitar” Watkins, and Alga Mae Hinton.

Thank you for your donations! They have allowed us to continue making grants as needed. We are very grateful to have recently been able to help Drink Small when his girlfriend’s house burned down. sponsor the Freedom From Hunger Festival for Willie King, provide a cardboard box from New Orleans the funding to produce a new record “Help Prevent” for Junio; give a grant to our newest recipient artist Peter Witcher from Pittsville, VA and very many needed emergency grants needed for day-to-day needs.

We have a fun time at our Warehouse Blues Series. Many thanks to the City of Durham, Parks and Recreation Department for sponsoring this event. Every Friday in June, July and August Music Maker will be presenting top notch blues at the West Village Apartments. See our listing below for the complete line up!

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Albert White, a tremendous guitarist and singer began his career with Beverly “Guitar” Watkins as a member of the original “Dr Feelgood and the Insomnia”, lead by the infamous Piano Red from Atlanta. Albert has been a key man in our recent tours to Europe, both backing artists and doing his own set. We are December Record Club offering.

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Cool John Article

like to be like every night in a different city like that, I mean, but if I got a lucrative offer to get on the road then I’d probably look at it you know.

Not long after Ferguson moved to North Carolina to work with Duff at Music Maker, he began playing regular weekend gigs at a greasy spoon called the All People Grill, located right next to Ferguson’s one-room residence on Guess Road, a few miles outside of Durham. He attracted a weekly crowd that ranged from college students to local to yuppies. Bradford Marsalis even stopped in as a two or three. But as his work with Music Maker has become more and more time consuming, Ferguson plays less often at All People.

These days Ferguson is on the road with some combination of Music Maker musicians throughout much of the year, in addition to playing on many of their studio albums. He says of his work at Music Maker: “I like to play with any other guitar player; you know, to see where they’re coming from. I like to collaborate with anyone…to exchange licks and stuff like that.” Recent pairings have found him with Captain Luke Mayer on Outsider Lounge Music, West Virginia folk and country singer Carl Rutherford on Turn Off The Fear, and Black Lucy’s Deuce with Milwaukee’s Lee Gates.

As far as a new solo album goes, in between all the traveling and studio gigs Ferguson is reticent to make any concrete claims: "It’s been discussed...been mentioned. Maybe this year. I don’t know which way it’s gonna go. I have so many groove tracks in my head that I haven’t even publicly displayed yet. More than likely it’ll be a variety. Throughout all his years of playing, back and forth from South to North, Ferguson has never forgotten his roots in church music. "I tell you what happened to me. I was born and raised in the gospel arena. At my shows, I mean I play the blues and I play jazz, contemporary, whatever—it’s a variety. But at some point I play the blues and it turns religious where I just get that feeling and the people feel it with me. It’s like a religious experience you know? That’s when I get more speed. When the spirit hits you and you think you can play Normally but when you focus, when the spirit hits you, you gonna move.”

As the end of our conversation draws near I ask him a final question about his opinion on contemporary music. "I’m gonna tell you. I ain’t gonna lie to you. No, I mean I can’t get into it too far. I can’t get too far out there for myself. Personally I don’t listen to it, it doesn’t suit my musical fancy. I’m gonna be honest. I can’t say I can’t feel anything in it. I can’t get into it. Especially with the new gospel that’s out, I don’t get into it. I don’t wanna listen to it. When I turn on my radio, it’s like, you know variety stations, ‘80s, ‘90s… I mean the stuff I just can’t help hearing. I mean some of the new stuff, the new talent, is kinda good like Marshie Carey, she’s, she’s got into her cause I kept hearing her. I felt her soul and I felt that she’s coming from. “What really discourages me with the hip hop music scene is the simple fact that my musical intuition...There’s not a musical form you know. It’s a drum beat and a stupid bass line or a stupid chorus you know it’s no musical value to me. You know, the whole thing. I don’t listen to it because all that I’ve heard...maybe there’s messages inside what they’re doing but the presentation...I ain’t with it. “It’s the way of the world. Like the Bible says, there’ll be the day when people believe a lie rather than the truth. I mean that’s about as good an example as that. Stuff that’s of no value is being raved after. I’m still kinda Biblical because everything that it mentions you know is coming to pass. It’s the true thing. You can groove or you can slide.”

Cool John Discography
(All recorded on the Music Maker label Except Kenny Wayne film)

Eddie Mac Brooks - Rain In Your Life - 2000
Cool John Ferguson - Cool John Ferguson - 2001
Carl Rutherford - Turn Off The Fear - 2002
Sol - Volume Blues - 2002
Lightnin’ Wells - Ragged But Right - 2002
Little Pink Anderson - Carolina Bluesman - 2002
Dave McGrew - Fruit-Trap Ballads Of The Great Northwest - 2003
Cootie Stark - Raw Sugar - 2003
Cool John Ferguson - Cool Yule - 2003
Cool John Ferguson - Guitar Heaven - 2003
Mr. Frank Edwards - Chicken Raid - 2004
Music Maker with Taj Mahal - 2005
Pura Fe - Follow Your Hearts Desire - 2005
Macavine Hayes - Drinkhouse 2005
Music Maker Treasure Box - 2005
Lee Gates - Black Lucy’s Deuce - 2006
Larry Shores - Songs from T-Town - 2005
Kenny Wayne Shepherd - 10 Days Out, Blues From The Backroads - late 2006

EVENTS

June 20th - Washington, DC - One time screening of “Drink House to Church House to Club House” at Sheridan Theater, 521 Connecticut Ave NW. Admission is a $10 suggested donation, reserve seats by calling 202-293-5450 or email donations@musicmaker.org


These Blues are going to rock the House (and Senate). Come out 6:30 - 11:30pm to The Nation Auditorium, 131 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC. For more information visit bluesonthestill.org, and for ticket information email donations@musicmaker.org


The 37th Annual Event is located on the banks of the Eno River. It has some the finest talent around for 4 days. They welcome, Carolina Chocolate Drops, Cool John Ferguson, Taj Mahal, Captain Luke, Whittlin’ Bitches, Lightnin’ Wells and a lot more! Visit www.enoriv-er.org/festival for more information.

July 27 - 30, Cognac, France – Blues Passion

This prestigious festival has invited back Music Maker, Eddie Tigner, Beverly “Guitar” Watkins, Mucat, George Higgs, Albert White, Adolphus Bell, Eddie Tigner, Sol, Ardie Dean, and Tim Duffy will join Taj Mahal and other talents on this exciting cruise. Visit www.bluescruise.com for more information.

February 4 - 10, 5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Tournament The Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Tournament 3 years running, Taj Mahal has brought together his two great loves, fishing and blues for a phenomenal week of fun and music to raise awareness and funds for the Music Maker Relief Foundation. Visit www.fishingmusicmaker.org or our fishin’ page at www.musicult.com for more information.

November 10 - 22, France - Adolphus Bell Will be touring France! People in France love his sound and show. Email info@musicmaker.org if you want more information about this.


For a current listing of all events visit musicmaker.org
FEATURE ARTISTS

Pura Fé

Pura Fé with her Nammy
FEMALE ARTIST
OF THE YEAR

Pura Fé

CONGRATULATIONS

CD Review

Follow Your Heart’s Desire

Music Maker MMCD48

Hailing from North Carolina’s Tuscarora Nation is Pura Fé, a gifted singer, activist, educator, mother, guitarist, actress, seamstress and traditional dancer. Many know Pura Fé from her work with the internationally acclaimed Native American women’s a capella trio Ubåti and the Deer Clan singers, a traditional longhouse group celebrating Tuscarora music and dance. On “Follow Your Heart’s Desire” she lays bare the deep connections between indigenous and African-American cultures of the Southeast and their equal roles in the birth of the blues. Indeed, from her work as a teacher and mentor of Native youth in communities in the U.S. and Canada to her long musical career in traditional Tuscarora music and dance, blues and jazz, Pura Fé is a cultural emissary, testifying to the shared history of Southern blacks and Native Americans.

Pura Fé’s father hails from Puerto Rico (her name means “pure faith” in Puerto Rican Spanish); her mother is a Tuscarora woman of mixed African and Native roots. Although Pura Fé was born and raised in New York, her connection to North Carolina, the original homeland of the now dispersed Tuscarora Nation was ever present in the music handed down to her from her mother. In this collection of original and traditional songs, Pura Fé’s guitar, piano, and voice take center stage. The title track features Pura Fé’s simple, elegant piano playing accompanying her soulful, lifting voice. On other tracks, such as “Wait Till You Come Back Again,” this songstress plays lap-style slide guitar to accompany her down home vocals. The album’s lyrics resonate with Native pride, love, resistance, and celebration and protest. Simply stated and effectively recorded, the songs are all earthy and rootsy in flavor.

“Rise Up Tuscarora Nation” tells of the tortured but proud history of the Tuscarora people, who have yet to be recognized by the United States government. “Authorities, holy men, missionaries take control/send Christ their only savior/to wash away the Native soul.” Like the greatest speakers, activists and singers, Pura Fé speaks truth to power, all the more when she is singing her deep blues from red heart of America, Indian Country.

—Corey Harris

Originally published in Living Blues, Issue #188, Vol. 37No2

Larry Shores

Larry Shores was born in 1948 in Elkin, Surry County, North Carolina, the sixth child to the teen bride of a man just back from World War II. Hard times saw young Larry a seasoned farmhand by the time he was on his own at 14. At 22, he headed west and made his career with the migrant orchard workers of California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Montana. Retired from labor, but still on the road, he is playing more music than ever in the grange halls and taverns of enduring America.

Larry has a new album “Songs from T-Town” now available!

Larry Shores, Hillsborough, NC

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FISH’N’ BLUES

TAJ MAHAL

TOURNAMENT

5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin’ Blues Tournament
February 4th-10th 2007
Playa Zancudo, Costa Rica

Billfish and Blues to benefit Music Maker Relief Foundation

The week-long trip features 3 days of amazing sailfish and marlin anglings competition. The billfish is all catch and release with round hooks to keep the fish happy and healthy. We usually catch some very tasty dorado (mahi-mahi), yellow fin tuna and wahoo.

Hang out with Taj Mahal and other musicians during this week long event!

Do reserve your spot early, as we are limited to 30 fishermen. The entrance fee for the 2007 tournament (our 5th Anniversary) is $5,500. This fee includes your airfare from Atlanta or Miami, transfers, fishing, accommodations™ meals, and drinks. For more information call Denise or Tim Duffy at 919-643-2456 anytime or email fishin@musicmaker.org.
Music Maker Salutes

Bill Krasilovsky is among the world’s most eminent music business lawyers.Introduced to us by the folk singer Pat Sky, Bill has been representing Music Maker and Tim Duffy since 1991, and actually filed the Music Maker Relief Foundations’ articles of incorporation pro bono in 1994. Bill is among Music Makers most important advisors and has helped the Foundation and its artists constantly over the years.

Bill is co-author of the books, “This Business of Music” and “More About This Business of Music” published by Billboard, the leading trade paper of the music industry. These books have both been referred to as the “Bible” of the music business by working musicians and lawyers in the industry.

Bill represents the estates of Lorenz Hart, Rachmaninoff, Duke Ellington, Buddy De Sylva, Ray Henderson and Fats Waller. He also represents or has represented classic industry figures such as Johnny Cash, Crystal Gale, Chuck Berry, Mary Wilson of The Supremes, Billy Taylor, Gian Carlo Menotti, Harry Connick Jr, Barry Eastmond and Dick Hyman as well as numerous other composers, publishers, recording artists, producers, studios and record companies. Mr. Krasilovsky has represented Warner Brothers music publishing companies and the American Guild of Authors and Composers (now Songwriter’s Guild of America), and has served as officer and/or director of a number of music publishing companies.

Guitar Gabriel and the Brothers in the Kitchen

Toot Blues

amazing sound, new artwork, same classic downhome blues! Get yours today!

order form on page 7; call 919-643-2456, visit musicmaker.org, email donations@musicmaker.org
Little Pink Anderson • Carolina Bluesman

showcases a masterful country blues player... issued! 3 CDs, 36 pg booklet, poster and guitar pick in a cool bag. Supplies are limited on the picks, bag and poster.

Precious Bryant • Staying True

eds a stunning record featuring e...

Cooptie Stark • Raw Sugar

Cootie Stark is one of the... signatures in the blues.

Dave McGrew • Fruit Tramp Ballads of the

is a wise enough to mak...

Archie Sanders • Colored Guitars and Grassroots Blues in Georgia

is our ne...

Lighghter Wells • Ragged Hot Night

Wells has been performing his... recorded... in Georgia 1967.

Collectors' Item • Dixiefrog Presents Music

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Layman Brown • Just Kills

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NEW RELEASE
CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS:
Dona Get a Ramblin’ Mind
CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS
WELCOME BY NATIONAL TREASURES
JOHN DEE HOLEMAN & ETTA BAKER
When legendary Carolina bluesman and National Folk Award winner John Dee Holeman first heard the band sing, a wide smile spread across the 70-year-old’s face. They reminded him of his youth; he said, of a generation that’s fading away “It’s up to the Carolina Chocolate Drops to keep the tradition alive,” said John Dee.
“The Carolina Chocolate Drops breathe the new life into old traditions,” said Wyatt Marshall of Old Hat Records. “Informed by broad cultural knowledge and a ceaseless curiosity, these young musicians extend the rich musical legacy of the North Carolina Piedmont, with all the technique, vitality and depth of character needed to put it across.”

Sweet Betty has been receiving wonderful reviews and has hit #5 on the Living Blues Record Charts!

Sweet Betty: Live and Let Live
Music Makers MMCDS9
Sweet Betty is Betty Echoes journey, a native of Duluth, Georgia, who was mentored by the late saxophonist “Grady” Fats Jackson and later established an association with guitarist Bob Margolin. Margolin featured her on his 1997 Alligator release “Up & In”. Betty was a gospel singer in her younger days; her range is limited, but her coarse-edged alto is imbued with deep feeling and she’s capable of conveying fervid emotion with lo-key, almost conversational ease.

Music Maker, despite their dedication to “tradition”, is no purist’s outfit. Here Betty is provided with a brawny horn section equally capable of K.C.-like swing and fatback funk, and her material ranges from doo-wop-style balladry (Joe South’s “Untie Me” through sanctified house wreckers (the venerable standard “Weary Land”, James Cleveland’s “cracked, yearning Walk Around Heaven”) to modernist, pop-style melanges (a reggae-tinged, molten-hot Darn Your Eyes). She negotiates complex runs and extended phrases with sureness; at times her vibration to widens to a point where it almost swallows the melody, but in general she remains in both melodic and timbral control.
And the album is anchored by her obvious emotional commitment to everything she sings.

Betty is in her early ’50s – still pretty young by blues standards – and it sounds as if she’s still honing her style (she didn’t become a professional entertainer until Jackson took her on the road in the mid-’80s). She’s a talented and versatile vocalist; this strong outing should help her reach and expanded audience, both in the U.S. and worldwide.

—David Whiteis
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Led by up-and-coming old-time fiddler and banjo player and vocalist Rhiannon Giddens, “The Drops” are doing just that. Rhiannon is 29.

Rhiannon finds her voice and her emotional commitment to everything she sings. Her CD is entitled “Guitar Heaven” – CDs for $15 (the $5 shipping fee) just fill out the Quantity and will ship the one out for you.

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