Music Maker Relief Foundation strives to help the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern music gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. We support the health and well being of these legendary musicians. Our organization provides the ways and means to expand their professional careers and share their unique musical gifts with the world. Music Maker does this for the betterment of their lives and for the preservation of our culture.

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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.

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Congressional Blues Festival
These Blues will rock the house! (and the Senate)

The Congressional Blues Festival was created to honor American Roots Music on a national stage, where guests from all parts of the country can enjoy this art. We are incredibly appreciative of the continued support of so many members of Congress and their staffs, and look forward to the continued celebration of this great American tradition while assisting artists in need.

In recognition of 100 years of the musical and cultural impact the blues has given America, Congress proclaimed 2003 “The Year of the Blues.” To celebrate this support, on July 20th 2004, the Music Maker Blues Revival made a stop in DC, and was designated the First Annual Congressional Blues Festival. And now, due to its enormous success, it arrives for the third time in 2006.

Supporting the Blues

“The Blues” America’s own creation and tradition, is at the heart of our cultural identity. Unfortunately, its importance in music history is sometimes overlooked and the opportunity for its creators to pass on this tradition to future generations is slipping away. “The Blues” is America’s music. And, for over 100 years, it has permeated American culture, influencing not only our own jazz and modern rock, but music genres worldwide. Even still, many blues pioneers are struggling to make a living through their art.

The Music Maker Relief Foundation was created over ten years ago to make certain the blues would thrive by supporting not only these artists’ music, but educate and build the audience for traditional American music.

The Music Maker Blues Revival is a high-energy non-stop performance that is a blues education in itself. This year’s show will feature:

Taj Mahal
Beverly “Guitar” Watkins
Mudcat

Cool John Ferguson
The Second Amendments

This event is made possible through generous corporate sponsorships.

The 3rd Annual Congressional Blues Festival will be held at the Mellon Auditorium on Wednesday, June 21st, 2006, from 6:30 until 11:00pm.

All proceeds to benefit Music Maker Relief Foundation

Get your tickets today!
Taj Mahal
Beverly Guitar Watkins
Mudcat

Cool John Ferguson
The Second Amendments

Visit bluesonth hill.org
musicmaker.org

$25
Limited quantities, first come, first serve!

Past Events
For more information visit bluesonth hill.org

The Second Annual Congressional Blues Festival was held in the Lobby of the Postal Museum. It was a great night of blues, attended by well over 2000 enthusiastic people!

2005 Congressional Committee:
Congressman Chip Pickering (R-MS) - Co-Chair
Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) - Co-Chair
Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)
Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)
Senator Trent Lott (R-MS)
Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)
Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
Senator Bill Frist (R-TN)
Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL)
Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
Senator Barack Obama (D-IL)
Congressman David Price (D-NC)
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Congressman John Lewis (D-GA)

Lee Gates, Kanny Wayne Shepherd, Ryan Costello, George Higgins & Mudcat

Lee Gates with Crow

Lee Gates, Kanny Wayne Shepherd, Ryan Costello, George Higgins & Mudcat

Lee Gates, Kanny Wayne Shepherd, Ryan Costello, George Higgins & Mudcat

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Lee Gates, Kanny Wayne Shepherd, Ryan Costello, George Higgins & Mudcat

Lee Gates, Kanny Wayne Shepherd, Ryan Costello, George Higgins & Mudcat
Dear Friends,

This April the Music Maker Relief Foundation begins its 12th year helping the forgotten heroes of southern musical traditions. Over the years we have bifurcated a great many incredible artists. It is a wonderful thing to meet an artist that is in their 70s and witness the blossoming of a long sought after career. It is extremely sad when such artists pass away.

In recent months we lost artists Carl Rutherford and Rufus McKenzie both whom we have known and worked with since before the formation of MMRF. Carl lived a large life, plagued with serious health problems. His life was one of struggle, intense religious faith and political action. His stories of being involved in the labor movement as a child working in the mines of West Virginia, setting up food co-ops for his fellow sawmill workers in California in the 50s and later helping children in his poverty stricken area of West Virginia were of great inspiration to us in developing MMRF. Rufus McKenzie was a magnificent singer and harmonica ace. His music stemmed back into the 1800s. We feel privileged to have documented and helped these artists when they were alive and remain steadfast in promoting and keeping their music alive.

Our greatest achievement to promote our cause in recent years is our Congressional Blues Festival in Washington D.C. Only in its 3rd year, this event has become one of the most popular charitable fundraisers in our nation’s capitol. Founded by board member Ryan Costello, this festival brings together our lawmakers and the corporate community for an evening of celebration and learning about Southern music and the artists that keep these traditions alive. We wish to thank all the companies that make this festival such a great success, especially host Volkswagen of America and co-host Tyson Foods!

Several MMRF artists have just returned from successful tours of France, Portugal and Australia. We will head back to France in May and again in July. The success of the Music Maker compilation released by French record company Dixie Frog has been huge. This CD has been heralded as the greatest event in blues music in France in the last 35 years. Puru Fé will be enjoyed a single artist release this May and many performances are being scheduled for the fall and winter. A 17-city tour featuring several MMRF artists is planned for May of 07.

To see artists like Macavine Hayes and Adolphus Bell who have struggled in obscurity for 40 years, to hear audiences of thousands is an amazing event to witness. Adolphus remarked, “My face just hurt from smiling so much. I never dreamed that something like this would happen in my life!”

We wish to thank everyone that has contributed to MMRF and made these dreams come true. We continue to need your support, please consider making a donation today.

With warm regards,

Timothy & Denise Duffy

Music Maker News

Beverly “Guitar” Watkins, Albert White, Eddie Tigner, Adolphus Bell, Macavine Hayes, Puru Fé, Ardille Dean, Sol and Tim Duffy traveled to Beauvais, France to perform at the blues “sur le zénith” festival. This was an incredible night! We wish to thank the festival organizers, Macimine Laurent and David Isaac for the hospitality and the show.

Adolphus Bell, Macavine Hayes and the Little Freddie King Band performed at the Teatro Academico Gl Vicente festival in Combraga, Portugal. We wish to thank Paulo and Teresa for their wonderful hospitality. The theatre was incredible and the stage lighting was amazing! The audience was on their feet for the entire performance.

High praise to Dixie Frog Records. This CD release has been heralded as a huge event in France and has garnished press in this country’s top magazines and newspapers. While we were there we performed live on the radio stations of France and Europe. We were thrilled to be joined by our old friend Papa Chubby at one of these shows. This was the first trip for Macavine Hayes to Europe and he had a great time and looks forward to his trips to Australia in April and back to France in May and July.

Alabama Slim, Ted Walters, Bishop Dready Manning and Pat and Cathy Sky have been added to our Artist Roster. If you haven’t yet, visit the Artist Roster page at musicmaker.org or just flip the page to learn more about your favorite artists, and about some you have never heard of.

Music Maker is proud to announce a series of international tours this summer: Adolphus Bell, Macavine Hayes, Eddie Tigner, Beverly Watkins, Puru Fé, Cool John, Albert White, Sol, and Ardille Dean are just some of the musicians Music Maker is bringing overseas. Visit our Events Page for a complete line up.

George Higgs was recently admitted to the hospital with double pneumonia, but is recovering. Thank you for every one who has sent their well wishes to him and his family. Donations are needed to help artists in such situations.

You can always go online to musicmaker.org and download our latest newsletter, read articles, and listen to MP3s.

Music Maker supports the upcoming performance of Adolphus Bell in Nashville, to play an insurance convention. Many thanks to Al for thinking of HM.

Puru Fé is living on the West Coast and has been nominated in numerous categories in the NAMMYS (Native American Music Awards), including Best Album of the Year!

Cool John Ferguson has started playing a weekly show at Durham, NC’s Pizza Palace on Tuesday. It’s a treat to hear Cool John solo and eat some of the best pizza in the area.

Dave McGrew and Larry Shores recently visited us here at Music Maker. Although there was some concern, their transmission turned out to be okay and they made it out to NC just fine. While here Larry Shores, Sol and Cool John Ferguson added some parts to the recording Tim made last year in Texas. Larry Shores, Songs from T-Town, will be our June Record Club selection, public release is scheduled for July. In the meantime the CD is available only through Larry.

Slewfoot and Gary B. are living in New Orleans and volunteering at Tiptina’s where they are able to help other musicians and assist in the rebuilding process. Gigs and street music are not very profitable these days as there are so few tourists.

Eddie Tigner performs frequently at Darwin’s in Marietta, GA. If you’re in the area make sure to check him out and give (770) 978-6872 a call for more info.

We wish to thank Jeff Grill who recently hosted MMRF artists Sweet Betty and Puru Fé at Athens State University in Alabama.

We are busy working on the Whistlin’ Britches album! It should be a wonderful release.

Many thanks to Anne Pits, Molly Ferguson, and Bill Weaver for donating their time and hard work to help obtain visas for MMRF’s recent trip to Australia.

Veld also like to extend our thanks to Annika, Orman, Renee, Jennifer Murphy, and Peter Nobel for all their hard work in bringing over the Music Maker Relief Foundation to the Byron Bay Festival. Cool John, Macavine Hayes, and Adolphus Bell had a truly wonderful time during their visit, and enjoyed each performance they played.

Musicmaker.org
A FOUNDATION HELPS THE LAST PIONEERS OF THE AMERICAN BLUES

SOS

BLUESMEN IN DISTRESS

They are between 55 and 90 years old. Unknown or almost unknown, they play the blues, the true blues. The Music Maker Foundation is offering them to realize their old age, and to record them in a new role of the music of the south of the United States, by Mygale Day.

After hurricane Katrina, three street musicians from New Orleans, were refugees at the home of the Duffy, couple in North Carolina. Street, the songwriter and Carl Dwayne, an old friend of the capital of Louisiana, benefited from the mobile home parked on the property of the Music Maker Foundation. All this little world, children included, regathered between the kitchen of the house and the recording studio.

Earle is seated under the awning between the two buildings. He cleared the clarinet and the saxophone which he just received from the association. Street, on his part, tries to identify the help which they can claim after having removed some worn-out clothing, given by a neighbor. Artists in need, they had knocked on a good door, that of the Music Maker Foundation.

There is, of course, the clinic for musicians in New Orleans but it only procures medical aid and has been equally affected by the hurricane. The Duffy, founders and managers of Music Maker, deploy an invaluable energy to maintain bluesmen deprived in life whatever they find them within the United States. The couple have worked for 10 years to systematize the support for the artists by gifts of musical instruments, guitars principally, but also by the redistribution of the copyrights of a number of songs or concerts now.

Since its creation, has conveyed more than 2 million euros. “We are the kings of the little gift,” explains Tim Duffy. A furnace here, a car. “But they arrived with a heavier and another time with a way of paying for medicine which takes care of me and my son, without a job.”

The story of Miss America, for example, has 24 years, plays a mixture of traditional music, gospel blues and country and also sings about his experience of being a miner in the mountains of West Virginia.

A young graduate in ethnomusicology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Tim Duffy began in 1989 to record musicians of whom he heard and were still playing. A similar project to that of the founder of the study of the American musical heritage Alan Lomax.

In the 1930s, Lomax, one whom you cannot disregard, a musicologist backed by the Library of Congress, had been able to hit the road to cross the United States and record for posterity the artists of whom the reputation, established by word of mouth, passed rapidly the confines of the country or of the state in which they lived. Music Maker has today taken the lead with the same extraordinary equipment. The dias of these artists, which have followed closely the legendary bluesmen from before the war, take back you in an historic period without knowing either the sound or the essence. “You are not dealing with the second generation of bluesmen, you are dealing with the women ARE THE BLUES,” explains Tim Duffy. Who would have believed that the contemporaries of the legendary bluesman Robert Johnson, died in 1938 and still play today!

In the little village of Morganstown, in North Carolina, Ives Elsa Baker, At 92 years, she possesses a style and a guitar sound that is incomparable, right out of the 19th century. She welcomes you with the grace tinted with humor of the women of the South. “I have been a widow for 30 years, but a few years ago, Guitar Gabriel, one of the pillars of Music Maker, told everyone that because of the way I looked at him, I was actually married to him; “One has to be 104 years old to marry again, and you see, I am not too old.” Tim Duffy, who draws the 720 kilometers to give her a copyright check explains: “With 700 albums aired in a few months, Elsa is the one who sells the most.”

The check does not leave the elderly woman surprised. “How is this possible?” she asks, moved. “You play the blues with a sort of wistfulness...”

The hand too numbed to play the guitar, Elsa “Pink” Baker pulls the barp and pulls out the cords with two fingers in a style typical of the region. “I was scarcely three years old when I began to play. My father put me on the bed, the Sells on his knees, and would explain to me paterly how to place my fingers.” At 45 years old, she advises a musician, she quit her job at the shoe factory and for the first time, played for money. Better known under the name of Guitar Slim, accompanies her on the guitar. He was 30 years later; the young Tim Duffy on the trial of Guitar Gabriel and dozens of other forgotten bluesmen, “I miss those old gigs,” says Tim Duffy of those who have passed.

In the historic South of the United States, as the foot of the hills of North Carolina and the Piedmont blue, a version lighter and more rhythmic than the blues of Mississippi even "asks a question of hard work, of women, of alcohol or love for a long time", according to the experts, and the delta of Mississippi, the blue musicians of the 20s are often the likely Blacks living in the condition of quasi-slavery in the Carolinas, the eastern workers as daily laborers in the tobacco fields. The city of Durham, is an important industrial center where, from August to December, the surrounding farmers come for several days to the city to sell their tales of tobacco at auction. Enriched by the products of the daily sales, they fill the bars at nightfall to good music. Artists like Blind Boy Fuller, a native of the city of Chicago, could obtain comfortable lives at the time of these sessions.

At 76, John Dee Holman moved into the town but still owned the land where he grew up in the hilly country near Durham. On the form of his pants, the building where the tobacco dries, is still there. The barn built of wood of which he cut by hand with an ax, is an example of the very difficult work he did. As a little boy, he is surrounded by blues guitarists and hears Blind Boy Fuller playing with his uncle and the many musicians of Orange County. He sings with an expressive voice, accompanied by his guitar in a genre of the Piedmont blues hardened by the metallic sound of the Texas blues like Lightnin’ Hopkins. The man very and splendidly, a great master has just retired as a master of heavy equipment. But at the time when his fame exceeds the regional borders, he is obliged to refuse the salary of $1000 to take care of his sick wife.

5 000 DOLLARS A YEAR

If they wish to benefit from the financial aid of the foundation, the musicians must be rooted in the musical tradition of the southern United States, be older than 55 and earn less than $10,000 a year although the average they earn is scarcely a third. “I do not think that people imagine that artists of such scope exist, artists whose musical genre has influenced American culture and enriched the disk industry with millions of dollars, artists who try to survive with less than $5,000 a year,” says Tim Duffy indignantly.

The foundation helps 70 musicians in thirteen States of the Union in North Carolina but also in Georgia, in Louisiana or in Mississippi, it even has to refuse some candidates. Music Maker presents a collection of more than sixty tales, "without counting the recordings made for twenty five years which we have never used," pinpointed Earle.

As Eric Clapton, usually spare with words, wrote in a letter of support: "The project is fabulous and fulfills the proof that the music which I have always loved is alive and goes strong," the BB King, 84 years old, and the Civil RightsMovement in 1965 and 1966, Tim Duffy in 1997 and heard one of his recordings in the White House, admitted: “I have a passion for the country air of my childhood. Their photos on the cover of the disk remind me of the faces of the music I have frequented.” He too has grown up in a world of the black dias, a world of silence and music, a world of the lead with a voice to call out the blues. For 18 months, he was told of the field music of the state in which he was born.

I HAD 10 VOICES

Luther Mayer, 79 years old, nicknamed, “Captain Luke” of Carolina, had 10 voices.

Translation by Lucy Driven Duffy, April 1, 2006

EVENTS

Tuesdays through April 25th - Durham, NC - Cool John

Come see the cool Cool John and get some of the best pizza in Durham. He'll be playing at the Pizza Palace except for April 19th.

May 6 - Spartanburg, SC - Pink Anderson

Held in historic downtown Spartanburg, a day of fun for Family. Click here for more information as it becomes available.

May 6, 2006 - Hudson, NY - Streetfolk and Cary S, Albert White and Sweet Betty.

Join these musicians for a showcase at the Hudson Valley Music Center! Click here to learn more.

May 9-13 - Paris, France - Albert White, Eddie Tigner, Pura Fe, George Higas, Arnaud Gayet, Jeff & Tim and Sol

Will be performing at the Jazz Club Lionel Hampton at the Hotel Meurice, 82 Boulevard de la Cambre, 75008 Paris.

For more info call 01 40 68 36 34.

May 13, 2006 - Abe Reid - Private Party

June 2006 - Italy - Eddie Tigner, Marievine Hayes and Tim Duffy

Will be traveling in Italy for a tour!

October 1-2 - France - Adophe France Festival

Will be touring France! For more information and sound and video. Email info@musicmaker.org if you want to come for permission about this.

For a current listing of all events visit musicmaker.org

Jackson Brown & Mavis Turyn Hays at the Byron Bay Festival in Australia
MUSIC MAKER
PERFORMING ARTIST ROSTER

The number one request received from recipients is to help them get more work. Music Maker increases personal income and enhances the repertoires and performance skills through the Musical Development Program. There is no substitute for the experience of a live performance; for the performer or the audience. Our musicians appear in Festivals throughout the world, and put on a stellar show! Here is a listing of all our current performing artists.

**PIEDMONT**

*Country Blues*

- Pink Anderson
- Macavine Haley

**ELECTRIC BLUES**

- Sweet Bety
- Chester Bramban
- Cool John Ferguson
- Lee Gates
- Little Freddie King
- Abe Reid
- Beverly "Guitar" Watkins
- Albert White

**ONE MAN BAND**

- Adolphus Bell

**Sweet Bety** of Georgia is a protégé of the late great Grady "Fats" Jackson of Atlanta, Georgia. Blues guitarist Bob Margolin takes great pride in working with Betsy. She has performed throughout Europe, Greece, and the United States. "When Sweet Bety goes down an impressive run of pleasure from the crowd," Bob Margolin.

Chester Bramban music reflects the influence of a century of African American songster traditions. Each show is an emotional experience for the audience, as it is for him. This solid, block-like, blind man, has a powerful, flexible, southern drenched voice that comes from deep down in his gut. He has been deeply affected by his church and regularly gets off his piano stool mid-show – ministering from the stage - taking the audience to church with him. "Bramban’s still got it. (Unfortunately) how that runs to a blues wall, then slides down into a funky blues stroll gone template once again before planning into a down and dirty good – Grant Bred, Independent Weekly.

Cool John Ferguson has been playing the guitar since he was three. He has taken in the various musical traditions that have surrounded him his entire life. John plays everything from jazz to rock to country and folk. Cool John is one of the 5 greatest people I’ve heard in my career. "(Cool John Ferguson is nothing short of a guitar prodigy). The main brilliance still is plays from the unique set. He commands the fine ability to develop a theme on the fly, incorporating every element of the musical environment along the way and somehow spinning them all together when he links the end. His impressive carry the aesthetic sensibility of careful, pastoral-cololed music. His shape, art is simply all done in real time." Mark Gabon, Detroit Blues Review.

Lee Gates was born in Mississippi and moved to Milwaukee as a teenager where he has been playing his brand of down home blues for the past 50 years. Blues legend Albert Collins is his first cousin and you can hear the family influence in Lee’s fluid guitar style and tone. "Lee Gates remains a local legend, plenty of stamping goodtime party blues as Gates unleashes some aggressive, snarling axe work." - Bad Dog Blues

Little Freddie King became a charter member and annual attraction at the New Orleans Jazz Festival and toured Europe with Bo Diddley and John Lee Hooker in 1976. His 1970 recording titled "Harmonica Williams and Little Freddie King" is believed to be the first electric blues album recorded in New Orleans. He has relocated after the hurricane, but still travels the world. "He finds common ground between the sparse backwoods blues of his Delta birthplace and the more urban but still crude funk-sounds of the Crescent City’s dark alleys." - Bill Harrowitz

Mudcat is a tremendous slide guitarist and master of all a god-gifted entertainer. I have witnessed him light up packed houses at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco, at the Irving Plaza in New York, to open in concert in front of 10,000 folks in Lugano, Switzerland, to opening in a curbside in San Jose, Costa Rica entertaining dozens of young kids. Mud is born to make people smile and enjoy life. "[Mudcat] possessed the eerie, blurry depth of a Robert Johnson and the raw, sexual power of a Hendrix." - The Eleventh Hour

Abe Reid is a master of growing out old tunes, screaming harmonica, and now his authentic finger picking style has lost of new guitar squeaks and squonks to unleash on the unsuspecting Abe’s style inspires countless imitations and making the blues get enjoyable. He’s an innovator, creating infectious melodies that deliver some of the most potent assaults on the English Language since Allen Ginsberg howled his ass off. "Abe Reid is as an authentic southern poet and musician as Elvis, Johnny Cash or Guitar Gabriel." - Timothy Duffy

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins play on the streets of Atlanta. She put on a tremendous show and she was obviously a star. Music Maker started booking package shows and Beverly consistently tore down the house. She came up under Piano Red and cut records with him back in the 50s and 60s. She plays low-down, hard stompin’, rail-road-smokin’ blues. She’ll tell you, “people are impressed to see a black woman play like a man.”

"Beverly Watkins is a 59-year-old who plays a red Mustang guitar behind her back like Jimi Hendrix.” - Taj Mahal

Adolphus Bell is the world’s greatest One Man Band. Taking Paris by storm, since his introduction to Music Maker Relief Foundation, Adolphus has traveled to France, Portugal,Australia, Costa Rica, Germany and numerous festivals and shows in the United States. High energy truly authentic one man band showcases his African-American pop music, "He’s a great joy to see and experience. We just bought Adolphus Bell at Capitol Records Here, at the Renevue mansions, playing put all over French TV, a guy who sleeps in his car. He had to break down a point because he didn’t expect to see something like that happen in his life. He started street music for 15 years," says Tom Duffy. "People say he’s the best since Jimi Hendrix. When they die, they thought the music died, but the music never dies. People die but the music lives on “" - Bob Marley

Albert White is an old mate of Beverly “Guitar” Watkins. This Georgia man has devoted himself to his music, appearing in many festivals with Beverly playing both back and headliner. Albert has been asked to explore music all around the continent, US, introducing audiences to his vibrant and high energy performances of class blues. "Albert White brings an electrifying soul straight from 50s and 60s to every show he plays." Sol
George Higgs is among the last surviving Piedmont blues artists. He learned to play the harmonica as a child, and once he caught the harmony player Peg Leg Sam playing locally in Rocky Mount, a lasting impression was made. “If you could wrap a harmonica around your arm and draw a circle around it, I would probably list George Higgs. Not only did he play blues on the guitar, but he also was an artist on the harmonica.” – UNC-TV

John Dee Hолeman learned directly from Blind Boy Fuller and possesses an expressive blues voice and is a wonderful guitarist incorporating both Piedmont and Texas guitar styles. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship and a North Carolina Folk Heritage award, John Dee has toured the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

Captain Luke is the originator of the Outsider Lounge genre of music, with his natural deep baritone voice he has traveled far and wide from drinkshouses to festivals. As a leader in his community, Captain Luke is a renowned folk artist as well, with his unique brand of beer can harmonies and cars. Captain Luke’s singing is lyrical—his renditions of the 50s and 60s music scene are compelling. And, like a great song, a world is revealed in about 4 minutes.” - Dickey Betts, The Allman Brothers Band

Alabamian Slim has an aversion to all that ails you. He began playing at the age of 11, scared to sing at first, so he hung back and just played music. Then he has been over his fear of singing and has been gracing the world with his song for ever. His humor and play on words makes a great and memorial show!

The Blues Doctor has the power by combining cow call with a sound that is steady transparent without constant barriers.” -Warned DaWright Band

From Blind Boy Fuller, Robert Lockwood, Charlie Patton, Robert Nighthawk, and John Jackson, and began his professional music career with the Bob Margolin Band in 1996. In that four year period the world with the band and played with musicians like Pinetop Perkins, Hubert Sumlin, Billy Boy Arnold, Cary Bell, and others. In 2001 one joined the Big Bill Morganfield band and stayed until 2004. Tad now teaches and is concentrating on Piedmont blues and old-time jazz with Dave Andrews.

Lighthouse West is an avid collector of blues recordings and acoustic instruments. He plays all acoustic vintage instruments including cyprin, banjo, mandolin, ukulele and harmonica. His trademark is to educate as well as entertain audiences. A Lighthouse West’s performance is a spirited, exciting interpretation of folk blues classics and obscure material based on his over 20 years of experience, performance and research.

Pursuing a voice that soars to the heavens, taking us on a visionary choral odyssey, elegantly stating the Independence influence on the birth of the Blues. A foundation mother of her internationally renowned cappella trio, Lilah which has toured the world for 18 years.

Bluegrass is a popular form of American Roots music, with influences from English, Irish and Scottish traditional music, American, jazz and blues. Bluegrass plays a role in the coloring of many instruments and styles.

Purcell is a deeply rooted form of music, made by others by vocals and percussion. Indigenous music has developed distinct roots in Blues, Rock, and many other forms of music.

Visiting musicmaker.org for MP3s and extensive bios on all our artists.

Celtic music typically includes music from Ireland and Scotland, which uses a variety of instruments including the uilleann pipes, bagpipes, guitar, bouzouki, flute, penny whistle and others.

Blues is a deeply rooted form of music, made by others by vocals and percussion. Indigenous music has developed distinct roots in Blues, Rock, and many other forms of music.

Pursuing a voice that soars to the heavens, taking us on a visionary choral odyssey, elegantly stating the Independence influence on the birth of the Blues. A foundation mother of her internationally renowned cappella trio, Lilah which has toured the world for 18 years.

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Visiting musicmaker.org for MP3s and extensive bios on all our artists.

George Higgs is among the last surviving Piedmont blues artists. He learned to play the harmonica as a child, and once he caught the harmonica player Peg Leg Sam playing locally in Rocky Mount, a lasting impression was made. “If you could wrap a harmonica around your arm and draw a circle around it, I would probably list George Higgs. Not only did he play blues on the guitar, but he also was an artist on the harmonica.” – UNC-TV

John Dee Hолeman learned directly from Blind Boy Fuller and possesses an expressive blues voice and is a wonderful guitarist incorporating both Piedmont and Texas guitar styles. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship and a North Carolina Folk Heritage award, John Dee has toured the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

Captain Luke is the originator of the Outsider Lounge genre of music, with his natural deep baritone voice he has traveled far and wide from drinkshouses to festivals. As a leader in his community, Captain Luke is a renowned folk artist as well, with his unique brand of beer can harmonies and cars. Captain Luke’s singing is lyrical—his renditions of the 50s and 60s music scene are compelling. And, like a great song, a world is revealed in about 4 minutes.” - Dickey Betts, The Allman Brothers Band

Alabamian Slim has an aversion to all that ails you. He began playing at the age of 11, scared to sing at first, so he hung back and just played music. Then he has been over his fear of singing and has been gracing the world with his song for ever. His humor and play on words makes a great and memorial show!

The Blues Doctor has the power by combining cow call with a sound that is steady transparent without constant barriers.” -Warned DaWright Band

From Blind Boy Fuller, Robert Lockwood, Charlie Patton, Robert Nighthawk, and John Jackson, and began his professional music career with the Bob Margolin Band in 1996. In that four year period the world with the band and played with musicians like Pinetop Perkins, Hubert Sumlin, Billy Boy Arnold, Cary Bell, and others. In 2001 one joined the Big Bill Morganfield band and stayed until 2004. Tad now teaches and is concentrating on Piedmont blues and old-time jazz with Dave Andrews.

Lighthouse West is an avid collector of blues recordings and acoustic instruments. He plays all acoustic vintage instruments including cyprin, banjo, mandolin, ukulele and harmonica. His trademark is to educate as well as entertain audiences. A Lighthouse West’s performance is a spirited, exciting interpretation of folk blues classics and obscure material based on his over 20 years of experience, performance and research.

Pursuing a voice that soars to the heavens, taking us on a visionary choral odyssey, elegantly stating the Independence influence on the birth of the Blues. A foundation mother of her internationally renowned cappella trio, Lilah which has toured the world for 18 years.

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Celtic music typically includes music from Ireland and Scotland, which uses a variety of instruments including the uilleann pipes, bagpipes, guitar, bouzouki, flute, penny whistle and others.

Blues is a deeply rooted form of music, made by others by vocals and percussion. Indigenous music has developed distinct roots in Blues, Rock, and many other forms of music.

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All CDs $10 • Shipping $5 per address

Little Pink Anderson • Carolina Bluesman
The latest release by Little Pink Anderson features world-class country blues playing by one of the great exponents of the Piedmont style. Anderson is the daughter of guitar legend Charlie Jackson. The combination of her blues vocals and guitar playing is guaranteed to give you a good time!

Sweet Betty • Live and Let Live
Sweet Betty grew up singing gospel, blues and popular songs of the day under her mother's guidance. This set features 12 tracks that led Gramm P. Johnson to call her "the strongest of his career.

Cora Mae Bryant • Carolina Bluesman
This is Jerr Switzer's Festival release for someone who didn't become a professional musician. Her son, Mudcat, accompanied her on most of the album. The recording quality is absolute.

Bert Tannen • Private Blues Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz Real's
This set features 12 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Guitar Gabriel • T.A.B.
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too. (5)

Vintage Blues • Railroad Bill
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Music Maker With Taj Mahal Blues Legacy Tag Mahal • Black Lucy
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

 Stones From the Roots of America II • Compilation
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Collector's Item • Featuring Presently Music Maker
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

NMR Presence Box $35
This is an anthology of the great exponents of the Piedmont music in the south featuring dozens of young kids. The new release from Music Maker With Taj Mahal is a tremendous recording, with an equal amount of dedication to the blues and the Devil's "got his work cut out for him as he tries to get up and dance!"

Mudcat's Blues • The Great Northwest Express
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Lightin' Holmes • Jiggedy Jiggedy Blues
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Out of the Blue • Live at Birdland
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Sponsor Free CD
You can buy your share of the new release! This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Three for the Road
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Mak Mak (a.k.a. Lennie Gallatin) • Polka Dot Punks & Songs From the Roots of America
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

Metal Chair with Coon Dog Blues CD
This CD presents 21 songs by one of the most talented and innovating bluesmen on the world scene. Here are the blues, too.

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Silent Strings

Carl Rutherford passed away on Saturday January 28, 2006 in the hospital in Bristol, West Virginia. Carl had been sick for several months. He was survived by his wife Franki Paxton-Rutherford.

Memories of Carl

MacThorn, a long time supporter of Music Maker, volunteered to help Carl move back from California to West Virginia in 1999. Of learning of Carl’s passing he wrote:

I will never forget the trip across the USA with him. From the day I arrived in Redmond to the afternoon we landed in War the songs never stopped and the stories never ended. It was a hell of a trip. Many times I doubted we would make it but Carl taught me about faith and if I ever doubted I will never know but his prayers affected me, and after many years to consider the principle I am converted.

Tim, I remember when you called and asked if I would drive with Carl to get him back home to the mountain country he loved. I was caught up in a failing relationship but so blind to see that she wasn’t mine. When Carl called he talked about Jesus and asked if I would drive with him to West Virginia. I wasn’t planning on it but I told him I would think on it and consider - he told me he would pray for me and if it was the Lords will we would be pickin’ and grinnin across the USA.

Rufus McKenzie passed away this February. Rufus was born to a share-cropping family in Perry, Georgia in 1927. As a child he worked in the cotton fields, singing to his mule to pick up the pace. Rufus reflects, “I learned my music through sadness and coming up hard. I had to wear white people’s worn out shoes. I had little clothes to wear.” His music can be heard on the Music Maker release “Come So Far.” He is also a featured artist in the soon to be released film, “Blues Stories.”

Ask Amy

I heard Beverly has made a comeback! How is she doing? - Alexander Reznak, Raleigh, NC

I recently gave Beverly a call and she is upbeat and ready for rock and roll. Beverly had not performed publicly since the First Congressional Blues Festival two years ago. But, she had made a full recovery and recently traveled to France and was dancing on stage! We are so excited that she will be at the upcoming event in DC. Beverly has finished all her rehab and is feeling healthier than ever. Her doctors say she can get back on the road and once again woo audiences with her incredible guitar work and stage show. When I asked her how she had handled her recovery process from a stroke and cancer, she said, “I take one day at a time, it’s all in the Lord’s hands. But most importantly getting out there and playing music … that’s a Healing process too.”

How did Adolphus Bell end up being a one-man band? - Russell Nolan, Raleigh, NC

That’s a great question. Russ. Adolphus Bell did start out in a band. He said it was just too hard to get everyone to show up on time, to practice, and to get the music right. He said one day he decided to follow his mother’s advice and drop the band to become a One Man Band. “I have been doing music my whole life. I never had any other kind of work. I am 64 and I am ready to go, I have played the streets for 35 years as the One Man Band. I am the best at what I do! No one can do it like me! There are others, but they just do not have the experience. I just look forward in getting out there and doing my music.”

I heard Macavine Hayes is an international traveler now, how is that going? - Lana Welborn, Kings Mountain, NC

Well Lana, thanks for asking. Macavine Hayes was born in Tampa, FL, holstered with Guitar Gabriel and followed him back to Winston-Salem, NC. He’s been there since the late 60’s playing the local drinkhouses. He just traveled to Paris and I asked him if he had a fun time. “Oh, it was fine! I can’t wait to go back!” Macavine was a big hit at the Byron Bay Blues Festival in Australia, even though he only had a little turned around in the Detroit airport. But not too worry, everyone is back and is getting ready for their next big trip to Paris!

Reviews

Many thanks to Mark Coltrain, David Whites, Jim DeKaster, Corey Harris and everyone at Living Blues Magazine for reviewing the CDs and doing a feature on Cool John Ferguson!

Pura Fe • Follow Your Heart’s Desire

Pura Fe speaks truth to power, all the more when she is singing her deep blues from red heart of America, Indian Country.” - Corey Harris

Feature on Cool John Ferguson...

“Ferguson is an absolute delight to describe. He blurs the boundaries between blues, gospel and jazz in a way that’s challenging listeners - from party animals to academics - to rethink their perceptions of labels, categories and sub-cATEGORIES.” - Mark Coltrain

Make sure to pick up your copy of Living Blues to learn more about Music Maker and the current state of the blues.

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