Dear Friends,

From mountain hollers of Appalachia, to the housing projects of Birmingham, to the sleepy bayous of Louisiana, the musical traditions of the American South wear many different faces. The diverse sounds of Gospel, Blues, and Ballads form a rich pool that musicians worldwide drink from, and create a focus of pride throughout America. Urban or rural, black or white, sacred or secular, what these traditions all share is a birthplace among the working poor of our nation. Living hand to mouth in communities with scant resources leaves musicians struggling for life's essentials and threatens the survival of our cultural identity.

Music Maker Relief Foundation began as a very personal response to these needs among a handful of impoverished Blues artists in Winston-Salem. Over time we have built a unique model of social entrepreneurship that keeps our traditional musical culture vibrant by directly supporting those that make the music and by shining light on their talents to be enjoyed worldwide.

Through 19 years of grassroots experimentation and sweat equity, we have honed programs that create positive change in the lives of our partner artists, elevate the art forms, and make the music accessible to thousands of listeners. The professionalism of our organization has developed beyond the “mom and pop” shop of our founding. With results that can be replicated and are sustainable, Music Maker can now begin to build real capacity to broaden our impact and improve the lives of many more people - musicians and future generations of music lovers alike.

We are extremely proud of our team of Aaron Greenhood - Artists Services Coordinator, Corinne Everett Belch- Communications and Development Coordinator, Janet Askew- Accounting Coordinator, Cornelius Lewis- Program Assistant, and Årdie Dean- Musical Director. Through their expertise, dedication, and hard work, they have revitalized scores of our nation’s most treasured Roots musicians.

Ironing Board Sam, whom we met last year, has had an amazing turn around in his life by partnering with our mission. Sam, who in his own words “was sitting around waiting to die,” has since made a huge homecoming appearance at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, is being filmed for a documentary tracing his return to the stage, and has steady gigs at home and at festivals worldwide. He has reconnected with fans throughout the world. “Music Maker saved my life, each day I wake up looking forward to working on improving myself and my music.”

This highly individual approach keeps music alive that will be cherished through the ages. Thank you so much for being willing to help us because your support will enable to keep our programs strong and growing.

With warm regards,

Tim & Denise Duffy

---

Our Mission: Supporting

**MUSIC MAKER STAFF**
- Timothy Duffy, Executive Director
- Denise Duffy, Managing Director
- Corinne Everett Belch, Communications and Development Coordinator
- Aaron Greenhood, Artist Services Coordinator
- Janet Askew, Accounting Coordinator
- Cornelius Lewis, Program Associate

**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
American Roots Music

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- Timothy Duffy – president
- Rich Henneberry - treasurer
- Denise Duffy
- Catherine Elkins
- Bart Farrell
- Dom Flemons
- Rhiannon Giddens
- Tom Meyer
- Bill Puckett
- Justin Robinson
- Henry Slyker
- Tom Wallack
- Jon Porter

ADVISORY BOARD
- B.B. King
- Bonnie Raitt
- Ruthie Foster
- Ardie Dean
- Jackson Browne
- Dickey Betts
- Jimmy Herring
- Derek Trucks
- Susan Tedeschi
- Tifts Merritt
- Lutz Engelhardt
- Sue Foley
- Jean-Herve Michel

NEWSLETTER CREDITS
- Written by Timothy and Denise Duffy, Corinne Everett Belch, Aaron Greenhood
- Layout: Meg Wrather

© 2011 MMRF All Rights Reserved

190k audience members for 2010-11 performances
550 live artist performances in 2010-2011
130 Events in 2010-2011

85% Programs
9% Management
6% Fundraising

$541,721 Total Expenses

MUSIC MAKER
- 7,797 Musician Grants
- 3,450 Shows
- 1,822 Music Maker songs released
- 348 Recipient Artists
- 23 Countries Music Maker artists have toured
- 3 programs
- 1 Mission

Recipient Artists up till now:
[Names listed]

Musician Grants:
[Names listed]
In September 2011, we relocated Ironing Board Sam to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. About that same time, in our online digging to uncover Ironing Board Sam music history, we found a lonely record on Ebay entitled “Ironing Board Sam - The Ninth Wonder of the World of Music.” For $100 we could have it; we jumped. Later, when we played it for Sam, we found out that he had recorded the album with his drummer Lil’ George in the early 1970s in a studio in Gary, Indiana. Sam was tired of waiting on the labels to make the album of his dreams, so he recorded it himself. The album that we had in our possession was one of only 100 copies ever made. The original studio tapes are lost to history.

Two things occurred to us: the world needed to hear this lost album, and it was time to make a new album that was the singular expression of Ironing Board Sam's musical vision at 72. We asked Sam if this was something that he also wanted; his eyes immediately lit up. To start, we got Sam a digital recorder that he could use to capture his musical ideas when the spirit moved him. After a few sessions training him how to use the device, he was recording himself daily. Every Monday when we would come by to transfer his music to our laptop, there would be a new crop of songs, which we sent to Ardie Dean, the album’s producer. After 2 months, we had over 30 songs to work with. We scheduled a recording session in Huntsville, Alabama with Ardie and top-notch session players, including the legendary Memphis Horns. Sam made three trips, totaling almost a month, to Huntsville, working up the material, with Ardie's help overseeing the rest of the recordings. With an insatiable creativity, Sam recorded over 50 original songs. Almost 6 months into the recording process, Sam’s vision was coming into focus as the mixes were mastered and songs were selected for the completed album. The album is slated for release in early 2013. With all he accomplished, Sam could never record again and still have an impressive catalog. However, the title of the forthcoming album “Ironing Board Sam: Right Now” says much about Sam's attitude and hints at more to come.
2012 Releases

★

Purchase at musicmakerstore.org and on Itunes

Boo Hanks with Dom Flemons, Buffalo Junction
The Illinois Entertainer calls Buffalo Junction “fascinating[,] important[,] a singular musical experience [,] and[,] required listening for blues, folk, and musical history fans alike [featuring] dazzling pickin’”.

Little Freddie King, At Home...

Robert L. Coleman, One More Mile

Alabama Slim, Blue and Lonesome

Ironing Board Sam, Ninth Wonder

Guitar Lightnin’ Lee Rare Traks

Shelton Powe, Carolina Blues and Gospel
Musician Sustenance

The Musician Sustenance program provides grants for emergency relief and essential life needs.

Precious Bryant has been a Music Maker partner artist since 1995. Her repertoire, filled with Chitlins Circuit classics like Little Willie John’s “Fever” and Curtis Mayfield’s “It’s Alright,” plus originals like “Wrenched My Ankle,” is marked by her impeccable guitar skill and dynamic vocals, all delivered with an intimacy that makes the listener feel as if they are sweating together with her on a front porch. Her inimitable style took her to prestigious stages, from New York to Switzerland. Currently, her dialysis treatments require she stay close to home, so her gigs are limited, but she plays regularly in nearby Columbus, GA and is happy to stay close to family. She and her son Tony live on their ancestral land at the end of a long dirt road in Waverly Hall, Georgia. When Music Maker directors Tim and Denise Duffy visited her in the summer of 2011, they found Precious and Tony living in a shell of a building, unfit for residence.

Music Maker reached out to their supporters – and so many of you responded. Bonnie Raitt offered to sign a guitar donated by Fender Guitars. This was auctioned aboard the Legendary Blues Cruise in January 2012, raising $12,000. Columbus, Georgia club owner Buddy Nelms raised nearly $5,000 locally among Precious’ admirers. With additional help from Music Maker supporters, we raised enough money to begin seeking out a modest used mobile home.

In July 2012, the old trailer was dragged away and replaced with a two-bedroom unit, air conditioned and carpeted with new windows, appliances, and furniture. Precious and Tony now have a fresh start and a lovely place to live. Precious’ skill and artistry are every bit what they were when blues researcher George Mitchell recorded her in 1967. Music Maker is dedicated to making it possible for artists like Precious to live dignified lives in their retirement and to honoring their rich contributions to our cultural heritage.
Our Cultural Access Program builds appreciation and understanding of American roots music.

America’s rich heritage of folk music is shared and preserved for future generations through Music Maker’s Cultural Access Program. With artist performances around the globe, we strive to bring diverse audiences together in appreciation of American traditional music. In our 2011/2012 program year, Music Maker’s Cultural Access Program provided over 100 live performances in the US and abroad, educating and entertaining more than 100,000 people.

At home in NC, Music Maker’s Roots and Leaves Series, a program celebrating Carrboro music legend Elizabeth Cotten, was a smashing success. Reaching over 1,250 people with music concerts on Friday nights, each performance highlighted several artists representing the music styles of the Piedmont, NC region. Strictly traditional music from each genre was featured, in addition to artists bringing those genres into the contemporary realm. Historical introductions to each show educated audiences about their local musical history and how it continues to evolve.

A partnership with the Jazz & Blues Foundation’s “Jazz in the Schools” program has increased access to Blues and Roots music for schools and eldercare facilities in each participating artist’s hometown. Music Maker artists in this program perform once a month at a school or nursing homes local to them and receive a monthly grant from the Jazz & Blues Foundation. With performance opportunities often limited for traditional artists due to lack of demand or their inability to travel, this program is essential to ensure our artists have steady income; we hope to expand the program in the coming year.

This September, Music Maker will continue its Jubilee, celebrating Piedmont string bands by providing performances at a school and after-school program near our home base in Orange County, NC. John Dee Holeman and Tim Wells of Red Rover will educate students about the string-band traditions of the region, including their origins and what they have grown into today.

This year will feature artist performances around the world, as Dr. Burt travels to France in November, Pura Fé Trio and Charly Lowry perform at the Lincoln Center in July, and Ironing Board Sam performs in Switzerland in September and on the Blues Cruise in October, to name a few.
Captain Luke’s car was stolen and recovered ★ Boo Hanks and Dom Flemons went on tour ★ Pura Fé Trio and Askhareen both performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City ★ Lee Gates, Beverly Watkins, Sweet Betty, and Ironing Board Sam all moved this year. Housewarming presents welcome, please contact us for mailing addresses ★ Adolphus Bell is still recovering and hoping to get back on the road soon ★ Music Maker launched a new website ★ Drink Small returned to the Apollo, and has recently lost his vision ★ John Dee Holeman and Essie Mae Brooks performed at the Apollo Theatre in May as part of the Jazz Foundation of America’s “A Great Night in Harlem” ★ Ironing Board Sam lost and recovered his wallet from a cab driver at the Las Vegas Airport ★ Ironing Board Sam was outfitted with a sticker, a new keyboard, and a gold suit that he debuted at the New Orleans Jazzfest to a capacity crowd in the Blues Tent ★ Little Freddie King, Leyla McCalla, The Carolina Chocolate Drops, and Guitar Lightnin’ Lee also performed sets at Jazzfest in 2012 ★ Lakota John and Kin, Lumbee Nation Indians from Robeson County, have worked up a family band show leaving their living room for stages around North Carolina and beyond ★ Robert Lee Coleman was gifted a guitar by electric guitar pioneer Paul Reed Smith ★ Filmmaker Tom Ciaburri completed a series of shorts featuring Music Maker Artists ★ Music Maker’s studio moved to the Hi-Ho district of Hillsborough ★ Music Maker completed a successful outdoor music series at Southern Village funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts ★ Jerry “Boogie” McCain, Whistlin’ Britches, Joe Thompson and Calvin “Dogman” Blackman joined the Silent Strings ★ Captain Luke and Cool John Ferguson performed together seven times over the past year ★ Ironing Board Sam and Big Ron Hunter each brought their blues to the North Dakota Museum of Art ★ Next Gen artists The Carolina Chocolate Drops music video for their song “Country Girl” appeared in the top five on CMT. The video featured cameos by Captain Luke, John Dee Holeman, Big Ron Hunter, Ironing Board Sam, and Boo Hanks ★ Lee Gates was featured in Living Blues Magazine. The retrospective of his life in music was written by blues journalist Gene Tomko ★ Pura Fé had a three month residency at the University of Toronto. She performed at the University twice with her students to great acclaim ★ Pat “Mother Blues” Cohen went on two tours of France, one with MM artist Pat Wilder ★ Captain Luke and Big Ron Hunter’s original song was featured as a part of “Tobacco Project,” an art installation at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts by Chinese artist Xu Bing ★ The nationally recognized North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble collaborated with several MM artists, including Ironing Board Sam and John Dee Holeman, on a rousing show sharing music across generations ★ Big Ron Hunter received the Forsythe County Entertainment Award for R&B Artist ★ Music Maker Artists Big Ron Hunter, Whistlin’ Britches, Boo Hanks, Pat “Mother Blues” Cohen, Captain Luke, Leyla McCalla, Pura Fé, Layla and Tonya Locklear were featured in an hour long radio documentary on ABC produced by Australian journalist Shevonne Hunt ★ Ironing Board Sam was named the 2012 Living Blues Comeback Artist of the Year ★
Ask Aaron

Q: Aaron, you travelled with John Dee Holeman and Essie Mae Brooks to their gig at the Apollo Theatre in New York City as part of the Jazz Foundation’s “A Great Night In Harlem.”. What did they think of their experience?

A: Spending two days in New York City with John Dee, his girlfriend Joan, Essie Mae Brooks, and her daughter Phoeby was great fun. Thanks to the Jazz Foundation for the invitation and for taking such good care of us. Essie Mae and Joan had some interesting things to say about the experience:

“This was the largest crowd I ever sung to. I’ve sung for large crowds but that was the most. When I looked around and saw all those people, well, my granddaughter told me ‘When you go up to New York City and sing before that crowd, you gonna get nervous,’ but I didn’t get nervous. When you sing solo at funerals in front of a bunch of crying people and right there in front of a dead person, when you’ve been doing that for so many years, you don’t get nervous.”

-Essie Mae Brooks

“John Dee told me to have a big meal before I got on the plane. He told me there wouldn’t be a decent thing to eat once I got to the city and he was right!”

- Joan Bagley

Interns

Music Maker has had some wonderful interns since the beginning of 2012! This spring Christie Ray Harrison, a senior at UNC Chapel Hill, joined MM along with previous intern Matthew Dailey, a graduate student at the UNC School of Library Sciences. Christie Ray completed designs and artwork for six albums while at MM before taking off for Seattle to intern at World Vision. Matt is here again this summer, helping us with our digital archive, and he completed his Masters paper on implementing a The Archivist Toolkit at MM.

This summer we have a house full of great interns as well: Michael Capodiferro, a junior at Hampshire College, Jeremy Johnston, also a junior at Hampshire, and Maggie Morrissey, a recent graduate of UNC Chapel Hill are all working on various projects including designing CD artwork, cataloging the audio archive, and developing narratives about MM artists.
When Music Maker supporter Tony Young brought Boo Hanks to Music Maker’s offices in 2006, 79-year-old Boo had been playing the blues for nearly seven decades, first learning Piedmont-style guitar from his father and listening to Blind Boy Fuller on a gramophone. Like his father before him, Boo used music to pass the time during long nights of tobacco curing and to entertain at local corn shuckings, church cake walks, and house parties. Until meeting Tim Duffy, Boo had never been heard outside of his home community near the North Carolina-Virginia line.

Dom Flemons was at the Music Maker office when Boo first knocked on the door, and the two developed a friendship, musical partnership, and mentorship that began with that first jam session. Six years later, after Dom won a Grammy with the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Boo’s performance opportunities had expanded to include venues such as the Lincoln Center, their collaborative album was released. Buffalo Junction, named for Boo’s hometown, highlights Boo on the guitar and vocals, while Dom plays a variety of traditional instruments to accompany him. The Illinois Entertainer called Buffalo Junction, “Fascinating, important, a singular musical experience, and required listening for blues, folk, and musical history fans alike featuring dazzling picking.”

In August 2012, Boo & Dom headed out on tour to promote their album. Crowds in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Galax, VA were treated to live performances that demonstrated the passing of the torch from veteran Piedmont bluesman Boo to an artist like Dom, who is poised to carry the sound into this new century.

Boo and Dom have a mutual understanding based in the traditions of the American South that cements their friendship and musical connection. While Dom will continue touring the world with the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Boo will continue to record and play venues with Music Maker, if you’re up in Virginia, you might catch them on Boo’s front steps, playing the bones (Dom) and the guitar (Boo) just for the fun of it.
Thanks for your support!
Music Maker has forged strong relationships with many wonderful organizations. Here are just a few of the partners that support our programs and artists:

**NONPROFIT PARTNERS AND SISTER ORGANIZATIONS**
- Blue Tom Records
- Center for the Study of the American South
- Folk Alliance
- Jazz Foundation of America
- Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
- NC Youth Tap Ensemble
- US Artists International
- Shared Visions Foundation
- SOOTS
- Southern Folklife Collection
- The Blues Foundation
- The Media Institute
- Tuscarora Nation
- Oxford American Magazine

**PARTNERS ABROAD**
- Dixie Frog Records
- Englehardt Promotions
- Nueva Onda Productions

**CORPORATE PARTNERS**
- American Support
- Capitol Broadcast Company
- Cathead Vodka
- Clyde's Restaurant Group
- Fat Possum Records
- Gregg Roth Photography
- Harris Inc.
- Jimmy Williams Photography
- JP Shellfish
- Krasilovsky & Gross
- McKee Wallwork Cleveland
- Puckett & Associates
- Sacks & Company
- Starr Hill Brewery
- Wine Authorities

**GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**
- City of Durham Parks & Recreation Department
- NC Art Council
- Orange County Arts Commission

**EVENT PARTNERS**
- Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise
- Oyster Riot
- Roots N Blues N BBQ Festival

**Ongoing Events**

**Capitol Blues Nights at Clyde’s of Gallery Place**
*Washington, D.C. every Spring & Fall*
MMRF’s biannual fundraiser is an evening of great food, great music and fun.

**Music Maker Jubilee**
*Durham NC every Fall*
An educational series highlighting NC’s rich stringband heritage.

**Roots And Leaves Series**
*Chapel Hill, NC, Fridays in June*
Exploring the evolution of roots music.

Check musicmaker.org for details and upcoming dates!