

THE MUSIC MAKER  RELIEF FOUNDATION

News from MMRF

Introducing the "With TAJ MAHAL Series" (*Music Makers with Taj Mahal, Etta Baker with Taj Mahal...*) at the end of a wonderful year of recognition and support and national distribution for the MM Series.



Taj Mahal has been supporting the mission of the Music Maker Relief Foundation (MMRF) since his accidental meeting with the organization's founder in Los Angeles at a recording session with B.B. King. Tim Duffy meeting Taj Mahal was cataclysmic for the Foundation. Since 1997, Taj has joined the board of directors, led Music Maker Revue shows in major venues across the country, raised substantial monies with his annual Fishin' Blues Tourney in Costa Rica and consulted on dozens of recording projects

Early this year, Taj called Tim to urge him to get the Music Maker Series in national distribution. This October, **Allegro of Portland, Oregon, will launch the first distribution of the Music Maker Series** since 1999. For the past four years, CDs released from the foundation have been sold through the website, through telephone orders and its pre-release Giving it Back Record Club. This method affords the Foundation nice profits for its valued CDs, but they are going to give national distribution a chance and see what having the CDs in indy stores and chains will do for the artists.

Allegro sees nice sales for the with Taj Mahal series, which is a fine touch and loving outreach to the end of a wonderful year of recognition and support for the foundation:

*This spring, ABC News featured Tim Duffy as a **Person of the Week**.

*Television crews from France and Australia appeared at the headquarters for features airing this fall.

***i-Tunes posted MMRF artists** on the World Wide Web.

*Congressmen and Senators met MMRF artists and Congressman David Price (NC) has earmarked **\$75,000 in the federal budget** to start the process in building a permanent playing venue for these artists.

*A documentary on MMRF artists played at several film festivals and won 2 awards.

*A forthcoming CD from Pura Fé, the foundation's **first indigenous (First Nation) artist**.

*BBDO has donated advice on direct mail for the Holiday Record club and with Taj Mahal series.

The TAJ MAHAL SERIES debuts OCTOBER 8th and will be widely promoted for the Holiday Gift Program.

It's hard to decide which one to love more: **ETTA BAKER with TAJ MAHAL** (see separate media release) or the compilation of Taj playing with so many national treasures: **MUSIC MAKERS with TAJ MAHAL**.

In the enclosed compilation, Taj backs up legendary Music Maker artists Cootie Stark, Neal Pattman, Cool John Ferguson, Algia Mae Hinton, Mr. Frank Edwards, Etta Baker, Lightnin' Wells and Dave McGrew. Taj performs on piano, guitar, bass, hambone, banjo and two solo cuts by the man himself.

Others CDs in this series, to be released next year, are **JOHN DEE HOLMAN with TAJ MAHAL** (March 2004) and soon after one with **COOTIE STARK** and one with **NEAL PATTMAN!**



Music Makers with Taj Mahal
MM SERIES #49 / Recorded 1998-2003

Produced by Tim Duffy

- 1/ Going Down the Road Feelin' Bad | *Etta Baker* & *Taj Mahal* | 2:45
- 2/ Railroad Bill | *Etta Baker* & *Taj Mahal* | 3:18
- 3/ Mistreated Blues | *John Dee Holeman* & *Taj Mahal* | 4:45
- 4/ One Black Rat | *John Dee Holeman* & *Taj Mahal* | 5:14
- 5/ Catfish Blues | *Neal Pattman* & *Taj Mahal* | 3:58
- 6/ Disco Twist | *Neal Pattman* & *Taj Mahal* | 2:22
- 7/ Keep on Walkin' | *Cootie Stark* & *Taj Mahal* | 3:20
- 8/ High Yellow | *Cootie Stark* & *Taj Mahal* | 4:06
- 9/ Gambler's Prayer | *Dave McGrew* & *Taj Mahal* | 5:03
- 10/ I Mean It's Just too Bad | *Lightnin' Wells* & *Taj Mahal* | 2:52
- 11/ Black & White Rag | *Lightnin' Wells* & *Taj Mahal* | 1:50
- 12/ Song for Brenda | *Cool John Ferguson* & *Taj Mahal* | 4:49
- 13/ Chicken Raid | *Mr. Frank Edwards* & *Taj Mahal* | 3:53
- 14/ I Ain't the One You Love | *Algia Mae Hinton* & *Taj Mahal* | 3:09
- 15/ Spike Driver Blues | *Taj Mahal* | 4:30
- 16/ Fishin' Blues | *Taj Mahal* | 4:21

MMRF Mission: MUSIC MAKER RELIEF FOUNDATION, INC. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern musical traditions gain recognition and meet their day to day needs. Today, many such musicians are living in extreme poverty and need food, shelter, medical care, and other assistance. Music Maker's aid and service programs improve the quality of recipients' lives. Our work affirms to these artists that we value the gifts of music and inspiration they have delivered to the world. Our mission is to give back to the roots of American music. You can help by visiting our website, www.musicmaker.org.

And for more information, contact us online at info@musicmaker.org or by calling us at 919-643-2456.