

**GIFT WITH  
MUSIC MAKER**

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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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**MUSIC MAKER**  
The Official Newsletter of the Music Maker Relief Foundation  
Fall 2006  
Vol. 12, No. 3

# ETTA BAKER

ETTA BAKER'S ARTISTRY IS A RICH TEXTILE WOVEN BY THE FATES FROM HER PIEDMONT BLUES BACKGROUND, BLUEGRASS, COUNTRY, FOLK, SPIRITUALS AND POP MUSIC AS WELL. FAME COMES EARLY TO SOME, BUT FOR 60-SOME YEARS SHE PLAYED ONLY FOR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND PERSONAL SATISFACTION.

SHE DOESN'T SING MUCH, BUT HER FINGER-PICKING STYLE OF GUITAR PLAYING SPEAKS VOLUMES WITH ITS UNIQUE INSTRUMENTAL VOICE. AND ETTA'S REWORKINGS OF TRADITIONAL TUNES AND ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS' COMPLEXITY CONFOUND LESS SKILLFUL MUSICIANS.

THE ONLY MUSIC LESSONS SHE EVER HAD WERE BACK WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT THREE YEARS OLD AND WATCHED HER DAD (BOONIE REID), WHO'D CAREFULLY SHOW HER HOW HE PLACED HIS FINGERS TO FORM CHORDS.

HE TAUGHT HER UNTIL SHE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO HOLD A GUITAR ON HER OWN, HER MOM AND SIX OTHER SIBLINGS ALL MADE MUSIC TOO.

Story and Art  
by  
Gary Dumm

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THE MUSICAL WARP AND WOOF OF ETTA'S LIFE CONTINUED IN MEETING LEE BAKER, A PIANO PLAYER, WITH WHOM SHE PLAYED AT SQUARE DANCES AND PARTIES AROUND CALDWELL COUNTY. EVENTUALLY THEY MARRIED AND WITH STARTING A FAMILY ETTA GOT A JOB AT SKYLAND TEXTILES, WHERE SHE WORKED FOR 25 YEARS. MUSIC TOOK A BACKSEAT TO FAMILY UNTIL HER 9 CHILDREN WERE GROWN AND SHE RETIRED IN 1973. THEN HER MUSICAL CAREER REALLY TOOK OFF.

AWAY FROM HOME SHE'S PLAYED AT FESTIVALS, SCHOOLS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECEIVED AWARDS SUCH AS A FOLK HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP FROM THE NEA.

HER FIRST CD "ONE-DIME BLUES" RELEASED IN 1991 HAS LED HER TO PERFORM WITH PLAYERS SUCH AS TAJ MAHAL, DOC WATSON AND RAY CHARLES. ALTHOUGH SLOWING DOWN AT THE AGE OF NINETY-THREE, THE COLOR AND RICHNESS OF HER WORK REMAINS UNFADED.

# MUSIC MAKER *on the Road*

Photos from MM's recent French Tour



Lucas Duffy with posters  
While in Montpellier, France we were pleasantly surprised to see a MM tour poster displayed throughout the city! Pictured on them were the Goins. Filmmakers Chris Johnstone and Anna Ferrarie had filmed Elder James and Mother Marie Goins last winter. We realize how important timely documentation is as James Goins recently passed away after suffering a heart attack. ©Duffy



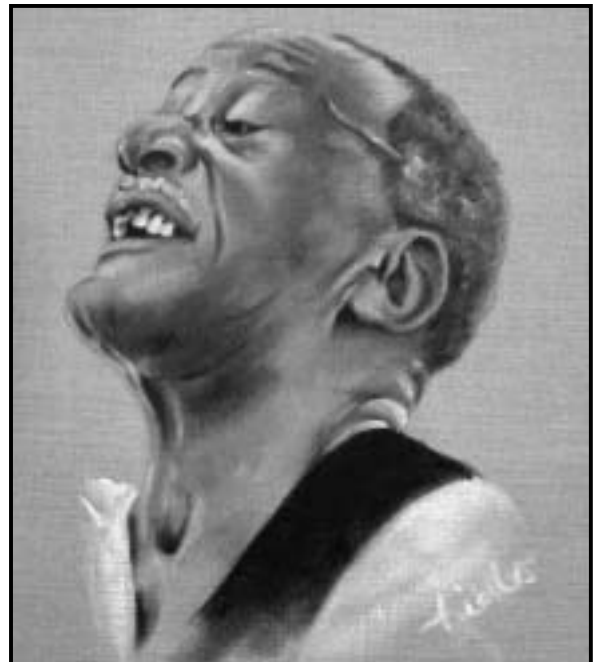
Cool John Ferguson and Captain Luke ©Duffy  
Cognac Blues Passions Festival is among the most important blues festivals in Europe. Director Michel Rolland presents many artists that have never traveled abroad before. In a beautiful park setting, this stage begins each day at 10:00 am and is free to the public.



Overseas travel is a big challenge to our artists and our organization. Many thanks to our French booking agency Nueva Onda for providing ample support personnel making sure everything is taken care of as we travel from gig to gig. From Left, Captain Luke, Cool John, Macavine, Leo, Ardie Dean, Sol, Jean Herve, Adolphus Bell, Pura Fé and Sam ©Duffy

By the end of November, Adolphus Bell will have traveled to perform abroad seven times in 2006. He is already scheduled to perform in France and Germany in 2007. Adolphus is making a career for himself and making an impact on audiences, particularly in France. This portrait of him hangs in a conference hall in Cognac, France. ©Duffy

Each show was well attended, often times with standing room only during our stay in France. Music Maker artists really enjoyed getting up on the stage and performing for such enthusiastic crowds. ©Duffy





**FEED AN ARTIST FOR A YEAR**

**\$300** A YEAR

**CAN CHANGE A MUSICIAN'S LIFE**

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Help sign a Music Maker Artist up for AngelFood Ministries and a box of food will be delivered to their door, or they will pick it up.

*Where AngelFood is not available, the artist will be sent a \$25 monthly grant.*

Make a real difference in an artist's life!

You choose a one time \$300 donation, or a monthly donation of \$25 charged on your credit card the last Friday of the month.

We'll pass on information on the artist you are sponsoring, and keep you updated on them!



# Dear Friends,

This summer has included the most performance activity in the history of MMRF. Every Friday night this past June, July and August the Durham Parks and Recreation Department featured Music Maker artists at their Warehouse Blues Series. In June, the Third Annual Congressional Blues Festival drew more than 3,000 fans to celebrate our musical traditions. Many thanks must go to our lead sponsor VW for sticking with us and to Board member Ryan Costello, valued assistants Stephanie Holland and Brandon Winfrey, and all our generous sponsors for their admirable efforts in making this event such a success.

We are celebrating a huge success in France this summer due to the hard work of the Dixie Frog Record label, Nueva Onda Productions and the Blues Passions de Cognac in introducing MMRF to French music lovers. Music Maker artists Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Albert White, Sol, Ardie Dean, Cool John Ferguson, Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes, Essie Mae Brooks, Adolphus Bell, Pura Fé, Slewfoot & Cary B., and Eddie Tigner performed at numerous festivals in France and Germany. The Duffy family toured with the artists in Southwest France for two glorious weeks in July. Our deepest thanks to the Bruneau family of Paris, Jean-Hervé, Marie, Leo and Junior of Nueva Onda, the Langlois' of Dixie Frog, Noelle Valluet, Michel Rolland and Hennessey Cognac for their very generous hospitality. Vive la France!!!



The third Congressional Blues Festival was packed! Many thanks to Ryan Costello and all the volunteers who made this amazing event possible!

some of the most beautiful and engaging artwork ever for our CDs. The animation and art produced for our first ever DVD & CD set series "Drink House to Church House" is incredibly innovative and yet reminiscent of times past. These sets make great gifts for the holidays.

Please celebrate new CD releases by George Higgs, Bishop Dready Manning and Alabama Slim, by enjoying them in your home or gifting to a friend. The Dixie Frog label also deserves high praise for the award-winning compilation of MM artists "Last and Lost Blues Survivors" and the enhanced CD release of "Pura Fé, Tuscarora Nation Blues." These are some very fruitful and productive times.

We wish to thank all of you that continue to support the mission of the Music Maker Relief Foundation! Without your help we would not continue to affect change in the lives of the artists that we serve. This summer we have remained active helping many musicians that are unable to work and creating opportunities for magnificent performers whose talents have remained unknown for decades.

We are a constant source of help to artists such as Etta Baker, Precious Bryant, JC McCool, Benton Flippen, Drink Small and many other legendary musicians with help with medicine and grants for daily needs. Being there for these artists is very important to us.

As we head into our fundraising season we ask for everyone's support in making a donation to the Music Maker Relief Foundation.

With Warm Regards,

  
Tim and Denise Duffy



Music Maker Board of Directors Ryan Costello and Taj Mahal with Lucy "Legs" Duffy who has been translating our French press. ©Duffy

musicmaker.org 2



Tift Merritt and Zeke Hutchins in Hillsborough, NC ©Duffy

## MUSIC MAKER news

Precious Bryant's MM release "My Name is Precious" won best new recordings/Traditional & acoustic by the Living Blues Awards Critics Poll.

Many thanks to JoAnn Clarke for her help in reviewing our grants.

Drink Small has been visiting the doctor quite a bit recently and didn't have Medicaid. We called Jay Palmer at the University of South Carolina, and he directed us to Christy Hartwell at the Department of Health and Human Services. Many thanks to both of these great people; Drink Small is on his way to getting Medicaid coverage, helping to reduce his medical bills dramatically.

Essie Mae Brooks is doing great. She has enjoyed her recent travels and is looking forward to getting her brother, James Davis' CD "Georgia Drumbeat" which will be released in 2007. She is also looking forward to getting her new CD released in the near future.

Bishop Dready Manning is anxious for the release of his new CD, which is slated to be the December Record Club selection. He had a great time up here at the Warehouse Blues, and invites all to his church in Roanoke Rapids, NC.

Algia Mae Hinton is doing all right. She was overjoyed by the news she will be receiving a donation every month to help her with her groceries, as a part of the "Feed An Artist For a Year Program." You can sponsor an artist for \$300 a year and help them have a full pantry for a year. To find out more email donations@musicmaker.org, or send in your \$300 donation with Feed an Artist in the Memo of the check.

Tift Merritt and Zeke Hutchins recently stopped by MMRF's headquarters while they were in North Carolina. Tift joined the Advisory Board. We are so happy to see the Carolina Chocolate Drops opening for them at their show October 18th in Greenville, SC at the Handlebar.

Eddie Tigner recently celebrated his 80th birthday! He had birthday parties at Fat Max's and the Northside Tavern, with all the Atlanta blues scene there to help him celebrate. Eddie Tigner is a master bluesman and piano player; make sure to check out his CD "Route 66", and keep an eye out for his upcoming new release.

Haskell "Whistlin' Britches" Thompson recently visited the hospital for a few days. His blood sugar was a bit low but was stabilized after a short stay. He has found a local doctor, and is going to try to take better care of his health.

We are thrilled that Jackson Browne wrote us a note stating he was thrilled to join our Advisory Board.

We are very saddened by the recent deaths of Elder James Goins and Jesse Mae Hemphill.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins is back on the road. She will be traveling to Argentina in late September and early October with Captain Luke. She feels she has fully recovered from her heart attack in 2004 and is happy to be back on the road.

Benton Flippen recently turned 86! He received a bow for his fiddle that he played with at the Warehouse Blues Series in Durham, NC in July. Benton was having some trouble with his legs and with walking, but that didn't hamper his amazing abilities on the fiddle. Over 250 people enjoyed his old time fiddling!

We wish to thank everyone who recently donated to MMRF! We continue to help artists through our programs and with grants to help with day-to-day needs. Over the summer we have been able to help New Orleans musician Alabama Slim make a car payment, assist Macavine Hayes in paying his utility bills, George Higgs to help with gas to get to his doctor appointments, Drink Small with help with his rent, get Lee

Gates enough gas money to drive to Alabama to record and do some gigs, help out Whistlin' Britches with prescription medication and give out many more much-needed grants for our artists.

Thanks to our new members of the Feed An Artist for a Year program: the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania, Mary and Lawrence Lockhart, Constance Paulson, Jeff Kilroy and Sebastian Danchin. With their monthly support we are able to put food on the tables of artists Sweet Betty and Tommy Brown and others. We are in the process of setting up even more musicians with this fantastic program.

### Throw a bash for Music Maker!

Music Maker invites you to host a DVD screening bash featuring excerpts (70 mins) from our new documentary DVD/CD set "Drink House to Church House: Songs and Stories from the Roots of America, Vol. 1 and 2" set for release in September 2006. You can help raise money for the foundation and get the film out to as many people as possible! The documentary contains short films of interviews and performances of Music Maker artists in their homes, in the studio, and in drink houses and church houses! Start brainstorming your own perfect party -- whether on the big screen in your local auditorium/armory/dance hall or in the corner bar, a small club or your living room. To sponsor a Party, contact Joanna Weiborn at joanna@musicmaker.org or by telephone: (919) 643-2456. You'll receive a packet containing the "Drink House to Church House" screening DVD as well as information giving you all the specifics and generating fundraising ideas for your party.

## MUSIC MAKER salutes



Geraldine Degiron from Strasbourg, France was worried about moving to Durham, NC where her husband had taken a position at Duke University. She then happened to read about MM in Le Monde Magazine just before her departure. She visited MM and presently is donating three days a week utilizing her expertise as a photo archivist cataloging our immense collection of digital photographs. She has at present cataloged over 8,000 photos and is still going. ©Jack Mock



Max Radings of Holland took a road trip from San Francisco with Tim Duffy's oldest friend Scott Savitt to visit our headquarters. For ten days Max helped fix our computers and mix and master recordings for Benton Flippen and David Butler. Max is considering coming back to MMRF for an extended internship. ©Duffy



Whistlin' Britches performing for the crowd

© Sean Birdsell



Bishop Dready Manning brought his family from Roanoke Rapids, NC

© Duffy



Joe Thompson

© Sean Birdsell

# warehouse BLUES

Every Friday night of June, July and August we have presented Music Maker artists at the Warehouse Blues Series that was made possible by the City of Durham Parks and Recreation Department. This highly successful series brings people from all walks of life together to listen to some good music. Free hot dogs have been provided by the West Village.



Adolphus Bell, The World's Greatest One Man Band, blew the crowd away!

©Gene Tomko



This series brought people together from all walks of life.

"I've fished in marlin tournaments up and down the East Coast, and throughout the Caribbean and Central America. I can honestly say that I've never had as much fun as I did fishing the Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament."

Charlie Levine Marlin Magazine Managing Editor

**5th ANNUAL \* 2007 FISHIN' BLUES TOURNAMENT**  
 PLAY CAROLINA, COSTA RICA  
**TAJ MAHAL**  
 BILL & FISHING ALL BLUES AND BASKETBALL  
 MUSIC MAKER BUILDING FOUNDATION  
 FEBRUARY 4-10

**Reserve your spot. Limit of 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](mailto:fishin@musicmaker.org).

# Give the Gift of the BLUES...



"Drink House to Church House: Songs and Stories from the Roots of America Volumes 1" explores both secular and sacred musical traditions from the American South. Each volume presents a CD of music and a DVD containing short films of interviews and performances of Music Maker artists.

Available in stores everywhere and online at [www.musicmaker.org](http://www.musicmaker.org)



# ASKamy

email all your questions to amy@musicmaker.org

I often listen to my Essie Mae Brooks, "Rain in Your Life" when I'm going through rough times. With the bomb scares in London, I'm wondering if she has any guidance for me to help me deal with these tough times? - Ollie Walker, Durham, NC

Hi Ollie. These are hard times on us all. With our artists' increasing international fame, they are traveling more and more often overseas. I called Essie Mae Brooks to see what she thought of it all, and here's what she said:

"You know this world is in a bad fix. When I think about how the world done got all mixed



Essie Mae Brooks, Chateau de Bagnole, historic home of the Hennessy family, Cognac, France. Essie Mae Brooks of Perry, Georgia lives not far from where she was born, on the same stretch of land where her ancestors have been since 1845 when white plantation owner William M. Davis bought 200 slaves from South Carolina and 200,000 acres of farmland around Perry. Essie Mae's performance at the Cognac Blues Passions Festival was remarkable and she truly enjoyed the hospitality they bestowed upon her.

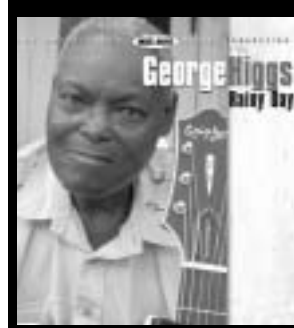
up all I can do is pray. I just pray everyone make it back home safe and sound. That's the best thing you can do. It's all in the Lord's Hands."

I tried to make some collard greens the other day, but they didn't taste that good. I heard Adolphus Bell can make great greens, do you think he could tell me how to make them? - Bob Wall, Chapel Hill, NC

That's a really great question, Bob. Adolphus is a great cook and an expert to ask about greens. I gave him a call and asked him, here is what he had to say:

"You got to make sure you wash them two or three times after you pick them, even if you buy them from the store. Then you cut them up with a butcher knife, like you cut up spinach. Cut them up real good. Put that in a pot. Then you add just 2 cups of water to start; you see greens as they cook, they make their own water, so you

don't want to put in too much water. Then add some bacon or fatback, you want to give it some good flavor. Make sure the fatback and greens cook all together. You will see the water diminishing; you want it to cook down real low. That will take an hour or so, but keep an eye on it; you don't want it to burn. Add some salt, but stir it around real good, you want the flavor to get in everywhere. Then you just keep tasting them, you want the greens to be real tender. That's how you make greens."



NEW RELEASE

# George Higgs RAINY DAY

George Higgs' new release *Rainy Day* is an incredible CD, a must have for your music collection!

This CD was made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

order form on page 7, call 919-643-2456, visit musicmaker.org, email donations@musicmaker.org

I just got Precious Bryant's CD and love it! She's such a blues treasure. I was wondering how her ankle is, after hearing the track "Wrenched My Ankle"? - Pat Smith, Raleigh, NC

Thanks for the interest, Pat. Precious is a great woman to talk to, and always has great advice to pass on. She did sprain her ankle a while ago with a horrible fall. Precious is such a great storyteller, and it's amazing to hear her emotion in her music. She has been having a lot of trouble with her leg recently, so I called her to check up and here's what she had to say:

"I just went to the doctor for my leg. My leg, it still be sore. But it don't be hurting me as much. I put some Epsom salt in hot water with rubbing alcohol, just a little. You see they have alcohol with Epsom salt in Manchester's at a place called Fred's but I can't find any around here. What you need is a big basin tub and then you can just soak your leg in there. I think I have arthritis; I think that is what I got. My legs they be sore to

the bone. I now got me an everyday stick and a Sunday stick. The everyday stick is one I just cut out of wood, the Sunday stick I bought from the store. Other than that everything is doing alright."

I'm a Record Club member, and received the new George Higgs "Rainy Day" CD. When do you think he'll be playing out again? - Todd Monsoon, Las Vegas, NM

Thanks for your support, Todd. The "Rainy Day CD" has fast become one of my favorite CDs. Betty Higgs called me up the other day after listening to the CD for the first time and let us know George is very happy with his new CD. When I asked her if he's ready to play she stated:

"That's what he's looking forward to. He's playing here around the house. He might do something at the end of the year, but he's just got to see how he's feeling. We are just making sure he's fully recovered before he starts playing out again."

## EVENTS

are the number one request from Music Maker Recipients. Here is a listing of all current shows, but please visit musicmaker.org, Events, for the current listing and email info@musicmaker.org with any questions.

**September 8, 2006 - Lightnin' Wells - Dallas, NC** Join Lightnin' for the Blues Out Back Series at the Gaston County Museum, visit their website [gastontownmuseum.org](http://gastontownmuseum.org) for more information.

**September 9 - Boone, NC - Carolina Chocolate Drops** Boone Contra Dance [www.boonecountrydancers.org](http://www.boonecountrydancers.org) 8pm

**September 10 - Raleigh, NC - Carolina Chocolate Drops** NC History Museum, [www.ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org) 8pm

**September 12 - Portsmouth, NH - NH Blues and Jazz Festival** Presents the Taj Mahal Trio with Elvin Bishop with Music Maker's very own Sweet Betty, Albert White and Captain Luke. For more information call 603-436-2400 or visit [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org)

**September 15th - 17th - Bristol, VA/TN - Rhythm & Roots Reunion** Celebrating Bristol's musical heritage, Adolphus Bell and the Carolina Chocolate Drops will be apart of this 3 day festival of music. Visit [www.bristolrhythm.com](http://www.bristolrhythm.com) for more information!

**September 21 - Chapel Hill, NC - John Dee Holeman** Thursday on the Terrace concert series will be located at the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence at Graham Memorial, adjacent to Franklin Street, between McCorkle Place and the Morehead Planetarium. Visit [johnstoncenter.unc.edu](http://johnstoncenter.unc.edu) for more information.

**September 23 - Winston-Salem, NC - Carolina Chocolate Drops** Come on out the the Apple Fest ([carolinamusicways.org](http://carolinamusicways.org)) for a full day of music!

**September 24 - Harrisburg, PA - Adolphus**

**Bell** The Blues Society of Central PA is hosting the International Blues Competition at the 40 and 8 Picnic Grounds on Chamberhill Road. This should be a great event with Adolphus Bell kicking off and closing up the activities! Show starts at 1pm, and tickets are \$10. Call 1-888-771-BSCD for more information.

**September 24 - Carrboro, NC - Carolina Chocolate Drops** Come out for this great festival. Visit [www.carrboromusicfestival.com](http://www.carrboromusicfestival.com) for more information.

**September 29 - Asheville, NC - Carolina Chocolate Drops** The Gray Eagle, 185 Clingman Ave, Asheville, NC 28801 or [www.thegreyeagle.com](http://www.thegreyeagle.com)

**September 30 - Kinston, NC - The Sol Creech Band, Sweet Betty, Albert White, Eddie Tigner** An incredible event celebrating the blues! Mark your calendar for this event in Kinston, NC, email [info@musicmaker.org](mailto:info@musicmaker.org) for more information.

**October 1 - Raleigh, NC - Carolina Chocolate Drops CD RELEASE PARTY** Come on out and celebrate this band of talented old-time string musicians and their Music Maker Release "Dona Got a Ramblin' Mind" at the Pour House, 224 S. Blount Street, Raleigh, NC 27601 [www.the-pour-house.com](http://www.the-pour-house.com), tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. The Mad Tea Party will also be joining CCD for a great night of music!

**October 5 - Chapel Hill, NC - Carolina Chocolate Drops** Here's a chance to see one of the hottest acts around! CCD will be a part of Thursday on the Terrace concert series will be

located at the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence at Graham Memorial, adjacent to Franklin Street, between McCorkle Place and the Morehead Planetarium. Visit [johnstoncenter.unc.edu](http://johnstoncenter.unc.edu) for more information.

**October 5 - 8 - Shakori Grassroots Festival - Benton Flippin, Pura Fé, and The Locklear Family** This Fall series will kick off with 3 days of incredible music! Visit [www.shakorihills.org](http://www.shakorihills.org) for more information and ticket information.

**October 6 - Helena, AK - Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival** Sweet Betty will be on the Sonny Boy Main Stage at noon. This is a great festival to come out to. Visit [www.bluesandheritage.com](http://www.bluesandheritage.com) for more information.

**October 14 - Macon, GA - Shuck and Suck** Drink Small and Macavine Hayes will be performing at this private event.

**October 18 - Greenville, SC - Carolina Chocolate Drops** Opening up for Tift Merritt! Visit [handlebar-online.com](http://handlebar-online.com) for more information. Show starts at 8pm

**October 20 - 22 - Louisville, KY - Carolina Chocolate Drops** [www.jugbandjubilee.com](http://www.jugbandjubilee.com)

**October 21 - Nancy, France - Adolphus Bell** Once again Adolphus will take part in this prestigious Festival! Visit [www.nancyjazzpulsations.com](http://www.nancyjazzpulsations.com) for more information.

**October 28 - Fayetteville, NC - Lightnin' Wells** 10Am, Lightnin' will be at the Market House in downtown Fayetteville, contact Kenneth Bailey at

910-321-6871 for more information.

**October 28 - Pittsboro, NC - Carolina Chocolate Drops** The Pittsboro General Store, [www.thegeneralstorecafe.com](http://www.thegeneralstorecafe.com) from 8:30 - 10:30pm

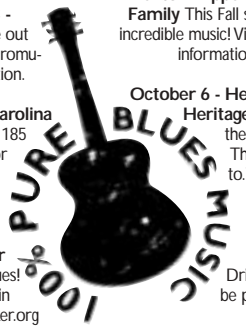
**October 29 - Roanoke, VA - Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes, Whistlin' Britches and The Sol Creech Band** Join us for a Music Maker show to benefit all MM artists. The Club, Roanoke's hippest new club, will be hosting this show. Please email [info@musicmaker.org](mailto:info@musicmaker.org) for more information.

**January 14 - 21 - Caribbean Cruise - Legendary Blues Cruise** Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Mudcat, 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](http://www.bluescruise.com) for more information.

**February 4 - 10 - 5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament** The Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament For 5 years running, Taj Mahal has brought together his two great loves, fishin' and blues for a phenomenal week of fun and music to raise awareness and funds for the Music Maker Relief Foundation. Email [fishin@musicmaker.org](mailto:fishin@musicmaker.org) or our fishin' page at [www.musicmaker.org/fishinblues.html](http://www.musicmaker.org/fishinblues.html) to find out more.

**February 21-25 - Folk Alliance Performance - Adolphus Bell and Carolina Chocolate Drops** These 2 great Music Maker acts have been chosen to take part of this show. Visit [www.folk.org](http://www.folk.org) for more information (click on conferences).

**February 23 - City of Clayton - Cool John Ferguson, John Dee Holeman and Captain Luke** More information to follow.





**Michel Rolland, Cognac France** ©Duffy  
 Michel Rolland is the director of the Cognac Blues Passions Festival. This festival transforms this small French town into an international music attraction; blues can be heard at the festival, and throughout the town until the early hours of the morning during festival week.



**Captain Luke and Macavine Hayes, Cognac France**  
 These two men are among the most easy-going gentlemen that one could ever hope to meet. They always are positive and look forward to having a good time.



**Macavine Hayes, Montpellier, France** ©Duffy  
 Macavine Hayes was a celebrated guest during his last tour of France. He is always smiling, laughing and enjoys every moment of his travels. The fans fell in love with him and his raw blues. On off-days Macavine made friends with everyone in the neighborhood.

**Cary B., Slewfoot, Cool John, Macavine Hayes and Sol on stage in Méze, France** ©Duffy  
 Nueva Onda, the same agents that launched the Buena Vista Social Club in France and Germany are booking the Music Maker Blues Revue. These people are taking great effort and care to present MM at cultural centers, festivals and theatres. Sol performed his first solo, hip-hop set in Cognac, France. It went so well he has been invited to France again in March!



# MUSIC MAKER

in France



**Essie Mae Brooks with children performing at the Cognac Blues Festival** ©Duffy  
Essie Mae Brooks performed her new song "Save the Children" and called all the children from the audience up on stage. This song moved the crowd to tears.



**Eddie Tigner, Chateau de Bangolet, Cognac France** ©Duffy  
Eddie Tigner is a sheer joy to travel with. Not only is he an amazing piano player but he is also a wonderful man that show promoters and fans are delighted to meet.



**Ardie Dean, Aigues-Mortes, France** ©Duffy  
Ardie Dean our drummer and music director has our Music Maker show perfected and fans love his sportsmanship!

**Philippe Langlois & Jean-Pierre Bruneau, Pierrefonds, France** ©Duffy  
Philippe Langlois is the president of Dixie Frog Records the most successful French Blues label and Jean-Pierre Bruneau is a filmmaker who recently completed a short film on Pura Fé. Dixie Frog and their associates have been instrumental in introducing French music lovers to the mission of MMRF.

**Lucas & Lilla Duffy and Teddy, Cognac France** ©Duffy  
Lucas, Lilla and Teddy went on tour this summer with their Mom and Dad. They were mighty travelers and truly got in the swing of festival life; they handed out hundreds of stickers everywhere we went, participated on stage with Sol and Essie Mae Brooks, and brought a great deal of enthusiasm to each event.



**Duffy**  
time while they travel.

**Tim Duffy, Captain Luke & Macavine Hayes, Montpellier, France** ©Duffy  
Macavine, Captain Luke and Tim Duffy started playing together with Guitar Gabriel in 1991. Luke is very close to 80 years old, and this last trip to France was a very special time for these close friends, who began playing drink houses in the ghetto of Winston-Salem, NC.

**Ardie Dean & Captain Luke, Chateau de Bangolet, Cognac France** ©Duffy  
The hospitality Music Maker artists receive on the road is tremendous. This is one of the most elegant unches we were served. At being told this was the Hennessy House, Captain Luke remarked, "This is the biggest drink house I have ever been in!"



Written By: Bernard Loupias

Translated from the French by Lucy DeVries Duffy April 11, 2006

# The Astonishing Battle of Tim Duffy

## Blues: Operation Survival

Revolted by the misery of elderly black artists in the southern United States, a young White man crazy about the Blues has created since the beginning of the year 1990 a foundation to come to their aid.

Willa Mae Buckner died in the year 2000. She was quite a woman! She was born in Augusta, Georgia in 1922. At the age of 12, she joined one of the black circuses, which crossed back and forth in the South with their cohort of charlatans, magicians, musicians and comedians. In her acts, she was called the Wild Enchantress, Princess Ejo, the Unique Black Gypsy or the Snake Lady, for she knew how to do everything: to sing the blues, to play the piano and the guitar, to swallow fire. And her talents for being a contortionist or for exhibiting the snakes, was worth, they said, the trip. Ah, her dear snakes! She had up to twenty-eight of them! At the end of her life, sick at heart, she had to agree to let Big Jim, her python of 6 meters, go free because she was unable to pay for his rations of frozen rats.

If Willa Mae Buckner was able to live with dignity the last years of her life, to buy herself two baby pythons and a beautiful guitar for her concerts, if her name will remain in the legends of the blues, as those of dozens of other artists of the blues

and of country otherwise doomed to oblivion (Precious Bryant, Captain Luke, John Dee Holeman, Etta Baker, Macavine Hayes...) thanks must be given to Tim Duffy. In the beginning of the nineties, this young white man, revolted by the misery in which these artists lived, founded The Music Maker Relief Foundation, an organization struggling financially at the beginning. His Mission? To provide them with food, housing and medical care, but also good instruments, concerts



Willa Mae Buckner

©Austin

and recordings realized in the greatest comfort while they stayed at the home base of MMRF. Two conditions were necessary to benefit from this help: the recipients must earn less than 18,000 dollars a year and to be at least 55 years old.

For Tim Duffy, it was a way of honoring these artists, to pay his debt to all these people who had illuminated his life and are for him what the popular American music - blues, country, bluegrass has offered to the world that is the most profoundly human, the most authentic. After a childhood passed in a family where one talked equally at mealtime of Bach, Hank Williams, Louis Armstrong, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan and

Johnny Cash, or of the legends of the blues like Leadbelly, Robert Johnson and Blind Boy Fuller, this accomplished guitarist made quite naturally a study of ethnomusicology. In 1983, he was in Kenya: "I perfected there my technique of collecting. I studied Swahili music and the oud." He returned toward the blues, a world where a white man is not necessarily welcome. James (Guitar Slim) Stephens ("a marvelous pianist of the blues and a gifted guitar player who had learned the slide guitar with the legendary Blind Willie Johnson", then a friend of Slim) and Guitar Gabriel would become his guides. He will never forget meeting Guitar Gabriel the first time. "He looked at me and said: "Where were you during all this time? I know where you and I can take you there." They became inseparable, roving together clubs and festivals of the blues until the death of Gabe in 1996. "When we did not have concerts, we searched to find again the old artists whom he had known, Macavine Hayes, Mr. Q., Willa Mae Buckner, Diamond Teeth Mary or Captain Luke, who became my closest friends." Tim recorded them at their homes, discovering thus their unimaginable poverty. He decided to take action. Without a penny, with a telephone. "In the beginning the offers which I could pick up for them were pathetic. In 1993, I made a call to some friends of my family to find a little help." Some friends of his father went crazy over the project, of which Mark Levinson, a specialist of hi-fi, who gave him the idea of a foundation, helped him to remaster his recordings, to write the pamphlet for a CD compilation of all the artists, "A Living Past", which he used right away to make the demonstration for his connections, inspiring colleagues and clients to give money. In October 1995, a miracle: in a bar, Mark Levinson came upon Eric Clapton and told him the whole story. This is when it clicked: Clapton, enthusiastic, became their best ambassador and spread their praise in all the media. Stars of the blues, B. B. King and Taj Mahal in the lead (who has become artistic advisor and a pillar of Music Maker) or rock stars like Pete Townshend, the Stones, Van Morrison and Jeff Beck showed their support. The gifts flowed in, more and more important among which were checks of 100,000 dollars

regularly sent by an anonymous donor. Money is more necessary than ever: "Before hurricane Katrina, we were taking care of 75 artists, but since, we have taken 85 more under our wing. And the telephone does not stop ringing..." Who said that the blues are dead?

CD: Music Maker Relief Foundation. The Last and Lost Blues Survivors, terrific anthology of 2 CDs (Dixiefrog/Night & Day)

Concert: Tim Duffy, Pura Fé, Adolphus Bell and George Higgs will play at the Blues Festival autour du Zinc (around the bar), March 18 at Beauvais

## Lee Gates, "Black Lucy's Deuce" Music Maker MMCD60

This extremely talented guitarist and singer was born in Mississippi and has all the soul and blues that that region seems to heap upon its citizens. His guitar playing is straight-ahead blues, and his ability to bend notes, with a strength and rawness second to no one playing now, contributes to his growing legend. This is someone with as much talent as many of his peers who have achieved greater fame.

There is a savage primitiveness to his playing that will turn more than a few heads. This recording was just a spontaneous happening, and Gates had never met the players in the studio before. He wrote all the songs in the studio, live and no overdubs: still, it sounds as if they have been playing together for years. This is fantastic disc from one of the most primeval of guitar players you probably haven't heard before. Don't let this recording slide away.

(BG) Dirty Linen, August/September '06 #125

One of the most special things that we do at MMRF is help artists get their careers going. There is nothing more important than getting their music well recorded, packaged and issued as a CD to help them secure work, and to raise them funds. MMRF grants CDs to the artists free of charge so that they can always have a box of CDs to sell at their local shows. We wish to thank Henderson/Bromstead Art Co. for their wonderful packaging designs, producer Ardie Dean, Amy Nolan, Joanna Welborn, Sol, John Price, Todd Glazer, Taj Mahal and others that have all helped us in various manners in helping create, issue and let the world know of these glorious CDs.

**George Higgs "Rainy Day"** - From Tarboro, NC nearly 80 minutes of expert North Carolina Country Blues on slide guitar, harp and vocals. This set is the most exciting deep country blues CD to be issued in years.

**Alabama Slim & Little Freddie King "The Mighty Flood"** - This CD delivers a very strong debut release after decades of playing the blues. This New Orleans Artist has a voice that reminds you of the greatest blues singers of all time, John Lee Hooker and Lightnin' Hopkins.

**Bishop Dready Manning "Gospel Train"** is steeped in country blues, as Bishop Manning was the greatest bluesman in his county for many years before he turned his life over to God and became a Bishop in the Holiness Church. Joined by his wife and family, Bishop offers an inspirational set of sacred songs.

**Drink House to Church House Vol. 1 and 2.** These two CD/DVD sets feature amazing footage and performances and mark our first steps in creating a new documentary on MM artists. The quality of animation, film and music is beyond the level of quality that any major has done on this type of music before.

**Adolphus Bell "One Man Band"** - When MM met Adolphus he was homeless and living in an old van. Adolphus now has an apartment, a land line phone, a cell phone, a newer van and will have traveled abroad seven times this year, sold a great number of CDs

and is busy making a career for himself as the greatest living one man band in the world.

**Sweet Betty "Live and Let Live"** - Betty made history for MM with this release. It made #5 on the blues radio charts and stayed on the charts for 3 months. This is an incredible R&B and Gospel release produced by Ardie Dean and Taj Mahal.

**Lee Gates "Black Lucy's Deuce"** made the blues radio charts and blues lovers around the world have been writing how could a talent of such ferocity have been unrecorded for so long. Searing electric blues.

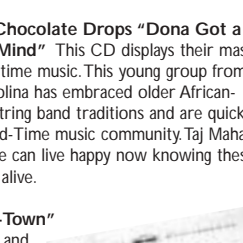
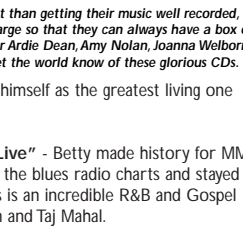
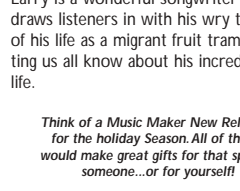
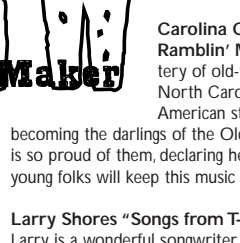
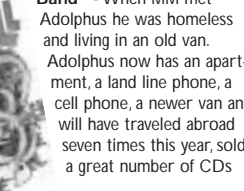
**Guitar Gabriel "Toot Blues"** was the first cassette Timothy Duffy recorded. This was artfully remastered by Sol and is presented with new artwork with expert photos by Axel Kustner. This cult classic is required listening for anyone serious about the blues.

**Carolina Chocolate Drops "Dona Got a Ramblin' Mind"** This CD displays their mastery of old-time music. This young group from North Carolina has embraced older African-American string band traditions and are quickly becoming the darlings of the Old-Time music community. Taj Mahal is so proud of them, declaring he can live happy now knowing these young folks will keep this music alive.

**Larry Shores "Songs from T-Town"** Larry is a wonderful songwriter and draws listeners in with his wry tales of his life as a migrant fruit tramp, letting us all know about his incredible life.

Think of a Music Maker New Release for the holiday Season. All of these would make great gifts for that special someone...or for yourself!

# what's NEW at Music Maker





Alabama Slim, pictured here in Hillsborough, NC, possesses a remarkable voice

©Duffy

# REVIEW

## Drink House to Church House: Volume 1

Music Maker MMCD71

By: Mark Coltrain

Music Maker has just released the first volume of a four-volume CD/DVD series entitled Drink House to Church House. With the help of filmmakers Chris Johnstone and Anna Ferrarie, Tim Duffy has rallied together the best of the Music Maker roster to perform favorite songs, give interviews, and spin some of the most colorful tales you'll hear this year. This first volume gathers together the likes of John Dee Holeman, Captain Luke, Cool John Ferguson, Macavine Hayes, Alabama Slim, Little Freddie King, Bishop Dredy & Marie Manning, and Haskell "Whistlin' Britches" Thompson. Rest assured when you have all these lively personalities spread across an album and a film, you're in for a treat. Friends, Duffy and Company do not disappoint in the least. Drink House to Church House is the kind of album and film you want to slip on at a party just to make everyone else jealous that you have a copy and they don't. The CD begins with John Dee Holeman tearing through a live version of "John Henry." Captain Luke follows with a version of "Careless Love" that's smooth as liver and ten

times as good for you. Also highlighting the album are two original blues drenched gospel songs by Music Maker newcomer and multi-instrumentalist, Bishop Dredy Manning; and "Can't See Why" as played by John Dee Holeman, Cool John Ferguson, with a special guest appearance by Kenny Wayne Shepherd. But to these ears, Alabama Slim and Little Freddie King's gritty original, "The Mighty Flood" detailing Slim and Little Freddie's stand-off with Katrina in a New Orleans hotel last year is reason alone to check this set out.



The DVD portion of the set is just as necessary and entertaining as the CD. The graphics, camera work, editing, and "feel like you're really there" footage are all of the highest order. From the strong rapport of Cool John's guitar playing and Captain Luke's voice, to the mischief of Macavine and Whistlin' Britches, to Bishop Dredy Manning and family, to Little Freddie and Alabama Slim, to John Dee Holeman, the high level of craft and devotion that are apparent with both album and film makes this one of the most essential releases in the traditional blues canon in years. Perhaps showing fans and critics alike that maybe the country blues is still as important and relevant to many communities as it was way back in the days of the old time drink house and old time church house from whence this singular music was born.

# NEWS from NEW ORLEANS

letter from Slewfoot and Cary B.

On our very first trip to France, we truly expected the strangest, or at least the most foreign behavior we would see would be from the French people. Little did we suspect that the oddest activities we'd encounter would come from our very own back yard. Now we know why it is that when we call up the Music Maker Foundation and Tim Duffy answers the phone, we have to ask if somebody "normal" could please come on the line. Take our word for it: Tim is the ringleader of a pack of genuine throwed-off Blues singers. Even his kids are in on it. Thank God for Denise Duffy.

Take, for example, the "press conference" we attended: there we all are, sitting Phil Donahue-style on a stage-like setting in a lecture hall; the journalists, TV and radio folks are filing in, the translator takes his seat, ready to roll... the questioning begins: Essie Mae Brooks is asked how she met Tim Duffy and she answered quite appropriately. When the same question is posed to Macavine Hayes (next in the questioning line) she answers AGAIN, ever so sweetly. Hmmm... Once the confusion is cleared up, we are exposed to Macavine's answer to the same query. The thing you have to know about Macavine is the fact that he is a truly deep thinker. He says some extremely intelligent things and has a deep well of wisdom. The problem is in order to actually hear this stuff, you have to listen REAL close, because he must have the deepest, most hard-to-understand accent we've ever heard. Next up is Captain Luke, who almost gets passed over because he is fast asleep, head back on the chair, snoring lightly. (Couldn't he have anything to do with the meal at the Hennessey Chateau right before we got there...) Wake up, Captain Luke!!

Now mind you, we are at the end of this line, able to look out into the rows of media people, and among them we see Lila Duffy's little tennis-



shoe'd feet sticking up in the air behind row#3. Naturally our maternal instincts kick in and we search the rows for Lucas Duffy, whom we finally spot tottering in the top row aisle with Tim's BRAND NEW VIDEO CAMERA not-so-firmly in his grasp. (Don't forget that the dessert tray passed more than once around the younger Duffy's table at the Hennessey meal...)

Anyway, we look over to Tim Duffy to get some relief from this circus only to see our fearless leader turned all the way around in his seat and fingering the sides of a giant projection screen on the wall behind him, fascinated by something nobody else could see, not even the French. Next in the line is his lovely wife Denise Duffy, cool and composed, ready to answer any question in flawless French. Of course they never get that far. The whole thing kind of teters to a halt when Tim asks the interpreter they'd kindly provided if he'd understood anything that Macavine Hayes had "answered". The man looks sincere but also somewhat confused when he replies, "not one word." The whole place cracks up at this point, and continues along these lines due to the fact that the interpreter just can't keep a straight face for the entire rest of this conference.

Our sincere advice to anyone calling up the Music Maker Relief Foundation from here on out: ask for Denise. Or Amy. Or Joanna. Ask for anybody normal, especially if the person picking up the phone says his name is "Tim".

LOVE FROM CARY B AND SLEWFOOT

# One in 120

## Fishin' Raffle

Here's your chance to join the 5th Annual Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament! For just \$100 you can join this exclusive raffle where you will be one (or how ever many tickets you decide to buy) of 120 Music Maker supporters entered to win 2 slots in this years fishin' tournament (a \$11,000 value).



This is not a tax deductible donation since it is a chance to win.

Included in the winning package are your airfares from Atlanta or Miami (additional fees may apply for other US cities), transfers, fishing, accommodations (based on double occupancy) meals, and drinks. For more information call Denise at 919-643-2456 or check our [musicmaker.org/fishinblues.html](http://musicmaker.org/fishinblues.html)



Pura Fé poses with her lap guitar in Nice, France

©Duffy

Pura Fé has endured much travel and hectic scheduling this spring and summer as she builds a great name for herself and her music in France and Germany. In Nice, on the French Riviera she was heralded by the press and presented a tremendous performance at this important festival.

# See what the French have to say about Pura Fé

Pura Fé has a CD out in France on the Dixie Frog label. This is essentially the same as the US release with an addition of two new songs and a 5-minute film as it is an enhanced CD. Here are a few translations by Lucy Duffy that appeared recently in the French Press:

**JAZZMAN:** A voice at the same time crystal clear and tormented, a melodious acoustic guitar that she plays placed flat on her knees, American Indian percussion, dances and tribal chants.... After the initial surprise, one allows oneself naturally to be carried by the charm of a very moving singer who proclaims her originality at each moment... A discovery not to be missed.

**LE MONDE:** For all to hear, new to acoustic blues or not, Tuscarora Nation Blues, brought by the voice throaty and proud of Pura Fé will be a discovery - that the original moaning of the blues does not come only from the slaves brought from Black Africa but also from the songs and dances of certain populations of American Indians. Pura Fé transmits here a simple emotion. Fascinating.

**VSD:** Robbie Robertson says that she possesses the voice of an angel and Taj Mahal that she sings like the birds. Pura Fé offers a disc of a timeless beauty, which ought to reunite the fans of Janis Joplin and those of Joni Mitchell. A Sacred great lady!

**VIBRATIONS:** Her beautiful powerful voice, sometimes bitter, raises itself up to deliver her message to the nation. Her text with very strong words, often painful, always luminous, is that which one calls poetry. Expecting to make the world better, the voice of Pura Fé already gives it dignity.

**LA VOIX DU NORD:** A voice to evoke the souls and spirits of the earth. The voice full of emotion of Pura Fé mingles sometimes with that of the authentic Iroquois Indians to claim the pride of all people. Magnificent.

**LE POPULAIRE DU CENTRE:** The aromas and perfumes are many on this cake at the same time simple and authentic. The voice is full of emotion and the slide guitar, played on her knees, shows how close are the links between the Blacks and the Indians of the South.

all CDs \$10

www.musicmaker.org  
919-643-2456 • donations@musicmaker.org

shipping \$5 per address



**Little Pink Anderson • Carolina Bluesman** showcases a masterful country blues player displaying some exceptional guitar chops and soulful vocals. Little Pink evokes the relaxed charm of his father tackling songs he obviously played with the old man.



**Etta Baker • Railroad Bill** "One of the signature chords of my guitar vocabulary comes from her version of Railroad Bill. Enjoy this beautiful album of guitar instrumentals." -Taj Mahal



**Etta Baker with Taj Mahal** A set of timeless beauty, spanning almost half a century, from a great lady of American vernacular music. Etta Baker is credited with helping spark the folk music revival in the 60s- no small feat for someone who didn't become a professional musician until she was in her 60s. This set includes duets with Taj Mahal plus all of her classic 1956 recordings.



**Etta Baker & Cora Phillips • Carolina Breakdown** This set was recorded in the late 80s when Etta Baker was in her prime. Her older sister Cora Phillips backs her up on guitar while Etta plays the banjo. Etta sings two songs on the release!



**Adolphus Bell • One Man Band House Rockin' Foot Stompin'** authentic Alabama One Man Band! This high energy release is guaranteed to give you a good time!



**Sweet Betty: Live and Let Live.** Betty grew up singing gospel, blues and popular songs of the day. In the mid 1380's, she met saxophonist, Grady "Fats" Jackson. Jackson was so impressed with Betty's voice that he began featuring her on his shows throughout Georgia. Sweet Betty has since traveled throughout the United States and Europe and is considered the finest blues singer in Atlanta.



**Essie Mae Brooks • Rain in Your Life** Essie Mae raises her voice and expresses her faith in her original collection of gospel songs. Cool John Ferguson accompanies her on most of the album with his light and masterful improvisations on guitar and piano.



**Cora Mae Bryant • Born with the Blues** Cora Mae Bryant is the daughter of guitar legend Curley Weaver. The combination of her father's and her own songs, accompanied by expert Georgia blues guitarist Joshua Jacobson, make this a very entertaining set.



**Cora Mae Bryant • Born in Newton County** "is a stunning record featuring exceptional guitar playing that owes a strong debt to her father but also to his frequent partner Blind Willie McTell.



**Precious Bryant • My Name is Precious** In this CD we did not hold back, we went through hours of recordings and have presented 26 songs showcasing Precious' unique voice and infectious charming style. The recording quality is absolutely stellar, among the finest audiophile recording quality one will ever stumble across.



**Carolina Chocolate Drops • Dona Got a Ramblin' Mind** This enhanced CD features 14 classic old-time tunes and amazing performance footage!



**Mr. Frank Edwards • Chicken Baid** A career that spanned nine decades, Edwards saw blues music evolve. This CD captures his last recording session the day of his death. That day he played the strongest of his career.



**Pura Fé • Follow Your Hearts Desire** Native chanteuse Pura Fé didn't just chance upon the myriad music styles you hear on her debut. They flow in her blood. Robbie Robertson recently said Pura Fé has "the voice of an angel." Believe the hype! -Toronto Sun



**Cool John Ferguson** Here is Cool John Ferguson, a previously uncelebrated musician, laying down tracks that led Grammy winner Taj Mahal to proclaim him one of the world's finest guitarists.



**Cool John Ferguson • Cool Yule** Cool John's incredibly innovative arrangements make this album of Christmas instrumentals so wonderful you will play this disc all year long!



**Cool John Ferguson • Guitar Heaven** Taj Mahal tells, "He's up there with Hendrix, Wes Montgomery, Django Reinhardt, people like that, he's an incredible player!"



**Preston Fulg • Sawmill Worker** Preston Fulg, born in 1915, was a sawmill worker, a tobacco sharecropper, moonshiner, and blues and old-time guitarist. He made these recordings at the age of 78. Preston weaves stories of his life through both secular and sacred songs.



**Lee Gates and the Alabama Cotton Kings** One must rejoice in the "happening" of this CD, especially the glorious tone of Lee's guitar. After performing for 52 years I have a feeling that Lee is just beginning his recording career.



**Lee Gates • Black Lucy's Deuce** The follow up album to his debut record, the sounds like the kind of party-mad juke who'd shoot or stab you - and then go home with your woman - as readily as he'd smile in your face.



**Guitar Gabriel • Volume One** "Guitar Gabriel ventures well beyond drink houses into his own private Birdland, an improvisational crossroads where the starkly pre-modern meets the startlingly postmodern and the Devil's "got his hair tied up in a ponytail/ to keep all the drunks confused." -Gree McCree



**Guitar Gabriel • Deep in the South** Guitar Gabriel boogies and cries heart-felt country blues in this set. He knew Blind Boy Fuller in his youth, traveled with medicine shows.



**Guitar Gabriel • Toot Blues** "This CD is not for the faint of heart. It is raw, unembellished, and drenched with feeling-liable to elicit whoops, hollers, and spontaneous banging on whatever furniture is handy." -David Nelson



**Macavine Hayes • Drinkhouse** A powerful, raw release after 50 years of playing the blues. Cool John Ferguson, Ardie Dean, Michael Parrish and Tim Duffy create a tight combo that perfectly matches Macavine Hayes' pure juke-joint blues.



**Big Boy Henry • Beaufort Blues** He is one of the sweetest, most gentle men ever to sing the blues. A patriarch of the Carolina Blues, Big Boy has recorded a collection of timeless songs, respectfully backed by a group of friends.



**George Higgs • Rainy Day** An amazing performance from blues great George Higgs! Many thanks to the Arts Council of NC who made this CD possible.



**George Higgs • Tarboro Blues** Acoustic Piedmont blues by George Higgs, a North Carolinian, who was inspired to take up the harmonica as a child after hearing Deford Bailey on the radio and seeing Peg Leg Sam at medicine shows and then learned to play guitar as a teenager. Voted the best blues album of 2001 by Living Blues.



**Algia Mae Hinton • Honey Babe** "Algia Mae is a great example of what is called in and throughout the African Diaspora, "Original Joe." This is an innovative character that survives and creates anew under all circumstances. Algia Mae Hinton is someone not to be missed!" -Taj Mahal



**John Dee Holman • Bull Durham Blues** "John Dee Holman is a wonderful carrier of the southeast blues tradition." -Taj Mahal



**Clyde Langford • High Steppin' Momma** Everyone needs an dose of his East Texas Blues!



**Capt. Luke & Cool John • Outsider Lounge Music** Here is Captain Luke, singing like a disenfranchised Dean Martin, rumbly low and wise enough to make Barry White sound pre-adolescent. Features a beautiful 20 pg. Booklet.



**Bishop Dready Manning • Gospel Train** This December Record Club release is a must have!



**Jerry 'Boogie' McCain • This Stuff Just Kills Me** No one plays a harp or sings the blues quite like Jerry "Boogie" McCain. Backed by a stellar rhythm section, Jerry's accompanied by a lineup of guest musicians including Johnnie



Johnson, Anson Funderburgh and Jimmie Vaughn.



**Jerry 'Boogie' McCain • Unplugged** Jerry "Boogie" McCain is the greatest post war harp player alive today. This is Jerry's one and only acoustic album. Jerry shines with his brilliant song writing in this intimate set of down home blues.



**Jerry 'Boogie' McCain • My Name is Boogie** McCain is the last true master of the amplified blues harp, a good singer, and a crackerjack songwriter



**Dave McGrew • Fruit Tramp Ballads of the Great Northwest** McGrew tells the stories of the fruit tramps. Day jobbers during the fruit harvesting season. A beautiful yet uneasy folk album.



**Mudcat • I'll Be Young Once Too** A tremendous slide guitarist, and most 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 air concerts in front of 10,000 folks in Lugano, Switzerland, to sitting on a curb in San Jose, Costa Rica entertaining dozens of young kids. Mud is born to make people smile and enjoy life



**Mudcat • Kickin' Chicken** Guaranteed to make you want to get up and dance!



**Mudcat • The Mess is On** The new release from Mudcat. Featuring new band member Little Jo. Mudcat tears it up!



**Neal Pattman • Prison Blues** Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz. Neals harp playing ad vocals have that classic sound that can only come from someone who has been steeped in the blues all of his life. He plays joyous, animated harp that recalls the whoopin' sound of Sonny Terry and an equal amount of country thrown in for good measure.



**Carl Rutherford • Turn Off the Fear** Here is granddaddy Carl Rutherford's devastating take on "The Old Rugged Cross" and other jewels that showcase his unique blend of Buck Owens-styled twang, old time gospel numbers and harrowing mining songs making him a true American original.



**Larry Shores • Songs from T-Town** Larry Shores, a seasoned farmhand by the time he was 14, plays folk music from the Northwest. This is a treat!



**Slewfoot and the Angels • Grasshopper Pie** Slewfoot's debut release for MM showcases his incredibly diverse and original song writing. With vocal partner Cary B, "Grasshopper Pie" features a stellar array of New Orleans' finest. New Orleans second-line, the blues and even Hawaiian slack-key combine to bring a fresh new flavor to the Music Maker lineup.



**Slewfoot and Cary B. • Rainin' in New Orleans** Slew and Cary rainin' in new Orleans: In this second release Slewfoot is joined by his muse Cary B. These are real songs from the streets of New Orleans. Slewfoot is a great poet, both are wonderful singers and musicians, a must have.



**Alabama Slim and Little Freddie King • The Mighty Flood** This haunting tale of Hurricane Katrina, and the aftermath, comes straight from bluesman Alabama Slim and his cousin Little Freddie King.



**Sol • volume blue** While many young, white musicians attempt to replicate the blues masters' art, sol steers clear of imitation in favor of excavation and transport. Sounds carry beyond genre, beyond origin and often arrive beyond the grave. Ancient truths of the blues arive in some new place, through some new voice, through some kid who is sol.



**Cootie Stark • Sugar Man** Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Konitz. Sugar Man doesn't merely proclaim "Cootie Stark was here." It is evidence that Stark was, and is, an idiosyncratic, tremendously talented musician. It's a sonic monument, and a mirror that immediately blurs the textbook pages dedicated to Piedmont Blues. It's a big deal.



**Cootie Stark • Raw Sugar** Cootie is one of the last great bluesmen from the Piedmont Tradition. Taj Mahal joins Cootie on harmonica, piano, bass, harp, banjo and guitar. 72-minute of the best blues and old-time music. Tremendous recording, a masterpiece, buy this CD!



**Eddie Tigner • Route 66** Eddie Tigner performed as an Ink Spot for over 30 years. In this album Eddie and his band exuberantly nail a set of timeless standards.



**Beverly 'Guitar' Watkins • Back in Business** Here is Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, previously heard from as one of Dr. Feelgood's interns, decreeing herself "Back in Business." This is a highly charged record by this powerful performer.



**The Feelings of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins** Beverly is the leading woman guitar player of her generation. Beverly is a pyrotechnic guitar player whose searing, ballistic attacks on the guitar have become allegorical takes within the blues community.



**Lightnin' Wells • Ragged but Right** Lightnin' Wells has been performing his Piedmont-tinged variety of American roots music for 35 years. His vibrant, good-natured vocals and melody-rich guitar playing recall the sounds of 1930's and '40's string bands and barroom bluesmen. Producer Tim Duffy, Cool John Ferguson and Taj Mahal and Ardie Dean sit in on a few tracks.



**A Living Past** This was the first album in the Music Maker series and has been heralded as a classic recording by reviewers throughout the world. This album is a superb sampler of the traditional blues scene in North Carolina.



**Blues Came to Georgia** Music Maker's Tim Duffy has assembled this collection of 15 songs to illustrate the continuing vitality of grassroots blues in Georgia at the turn of the century.



**Come So Far** This CD presents eighteen selections by twelve astonishing blues and gospel artists. This album was made in the field, in old trailers, kitchens, living rooms and nursing homes.



**Expressin' the Blues** This collection features 21 songs by 21 of the most talented and unsung heros of the blues. Here is a collection of some of the most emotional, gut-level music available on disc, the feelings intensified by the immediacy of the recordings.



**Music Maker with Taj Mahal** Blues legend Taj Mahal backs up Music Maker artists on upright bass, harmonica, banjo, piano and guitar. Plus two wonderful solo acoustic tracks by the great man himself.



**Music Maker Treasure Box** - This incredible 3 CD compilation set celebrates Music Maker musicians, with 38 artists, 53 tracks, and 41 of those songs have never been issued before! Also comes with 36 page booklet. What a deal! **THIS BOX SET IS \$30!**



**Sisters of the South** The music covers a wide spectrum, from gospel and country blues in the Piedmont style, to the modern blues of Beverly "Guitar" Watkins. Original recordings. Women, too, do have the blues...



**Songs from the Roots of America II** A companion to the book "Music Makers: Portraits & Songs from the Roots of America" this CD presents 21 songs by 21 artists, the majority of which are otherwise unreleased recordings.



**Collector's Item • Dixiefrog Presents Music Maker** We have a limited supply of this compilation that was released in France. This 2 CD box set features Music Maker artists. Sets for \$30. Limited supplies.



**The Whole Nine Yards** • Can't decide? Get it all! The Whole Nine Yards is every CD in the MM catalogue along with the Book. A great way to show your support and celebrate southern traditional music. Sets for \$635.



**Music Makers: Songs from the Roots of America** The story of the Music Maker Relief Foundation comes to life in this beautiful collection of photographs and writings. The 69 musicians profiled in this book take you on a soulful ride you'll never forget. Includes a 23-track CD and a forward by B.B. King. 208 pages, 11" x 8", 160 b&w photographs, hardcover. \$30

