

# MUSIC MAKERS RAG

The Official Newsletter

Music Maker Relief Foundation

Winter 1999



**FRANK EDWARDS**

photo: AXEL KUSTNER

Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 567 Pinnacle, NC 27043

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## INTRODUCTION

### Dear Friends,

Music Maker Relief Foundation continues to grow and incredible historic events are taking place. The Winston Blues Revival tour is giving back to this music at a level unprecedented in the entire



Greetings from all of us at Music Maker.

history of the blues. Artists are being launched into the international music scene. Recordings of our artists are being made possible by Cello Recordings and issued on their Music Maker Series. These CDs will be distributed by Siro/WEA and available everywhere.

January and we have two new t-shirts. Our work is entirely dependent on donations by individuals and corporate support.

We are meeting more elderly musicians of great talent. Our financial assistance, emergency aid, tour support and instrument acquisition programs are expanding. Music Maker Relief Foundation now serves over 70 artists. It is a magnificent era.

Special thanks to Cello Recordings, Taj Mahal, Long Haynes Carr, R.J. Reynolds, Mike Vernon and our many supporters, old and new.

Yours Truly,  
Tim and Denise Duffy

To keep it going, we need your help. Four new CDs will be available in

[www.musicmaker.org](http://www.musicmaker.org)

George Mitchell's outstanding collection of field recordings has been purchased by Cello Recordings. Many of our artists are included in this collection and the music is the absolute standard of it's genre.

[www.musicmaker.org](http://www.musicmaker.org)

The Music Maker Website is constantly updated to reflect all performance dates and venues.

You can check out the Winston Blues Revival Ads in: People, Playboy, Sports Illustrated, Vogue, Allure, Entertainment Weekly, Rolling Stone, Details, Detour, Gear, Icon, Magnet, Maxim, Notorious, POV, Plazm, Raygun, Revolt, Spin, Swing, Vibe, GQ, US, Elle, Yahoo, In Style, ESPN, Trips, Newsweek, Bikini, Jane, Marie Claire, MovieLine, Ocean Drive, SOMA, Wired, Esquire, Stuff and all the alternative weeklies (such as Village Voice).

On August 28th, Hampton House Gallery in Winston-Salem hosted an opening for an exhibit

of photography by Timothy Duffy, Axel Küstner and Mark Austin. Willa Mae Buckner, Mr. Q, Captain Luke, Macavine Hayes and Whistlin' Brisches provided music for the crowd.

Thanks to Futonago for making Music Maker the recipient of proceeds of their upcoming CD Memphis to Mali.

On September 26-27th, Tim Duffy traveled to Alabama to attend the Freedom Creek Festival. This was a true grass roots blues festival with an amazing number of blues musicians in attendance. We were delighted to meet 91 year old blues fiddler, pianist and guitarist Albert Duck.

In the late summer and early fall of 1998 Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Coozie Stark and Mudcat performed in Denver with Charlie Musselwhite at Wazoo's, Chicago with Charlie Love at Kingston Mines and New Orleans with Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown at Tipitina's Uptown.

JORDAN GENTILE'S WORKING: Sewing  
Custom Long Coats, Boat Covers,  
Dufflebags, And More Creative Projects

ARTIST'S  
Bio: Mr. Jordan Gentile

www.jordan-gentile.com



"The guitar is my guitar  
it's like my old best friend"

## Winston Blues Revival

Featuring The Phish and  
Music Maker Blues Artists

Friday: The Phish  
Saturday: The Phish  
Sunday: The Phish  
Monday: The Phish  
Tuesday: The Phish  
Wednesday: The Phish  
Thursday: The Phish  
Friday: The Phish

For more information on the Winston Blues Revival  
please contact the Music Maker Reg at  
1-800-848-8484 or visit our website at  
[www.musicmaker.org](http://www.musicmaker.org)

Winston-Salem, NC

## MUSIC MAKER EVENTS



**Beverly "Guitar" Watkins**

*Photo: Mark Austin*

! On October 16, 1998, Cootie Stark performed at the JVC Jazz Festival in Berlin, Germany with Jonny Lang. It was a great chance to catch up with Louisiana Red, Sam & Karen Duffy, Axel Küstner, Doris Dietrich and Lucy Duffy.

! Taj Mahal and Tim Duffy traveled to the Woodstock Festival.

! We have been fortunate to be able to donate to George Connor of Aliceville, AL a new Fender Stratocaster and Fender amplifier and Willie King of Aliceville, AL a Steinberger bass guitar. Taj Mahal picked out Precious Bryant an Epiphone "Howard Roberts" guitar. We also sent her an amp, mike, stand and her son Tony a bass guitar and amp.

! Special thanks to Harley Peavey of Peavey Electronics for his donation of a Peavey Raptor guitar and amplifier to Eugene Powell, who enjoyed playing music once again in the nursing home and one outside gig before his last illness.

**Cootie Stark and Jonny Lang**

*Photo: Tim Duffy*



## ARTISTS NOTES

† Eugene Powell died at age 89 this November. He was a Mississippi musician and one of the last links with the 1930s golden age of acoustic blues recordings. Eugene was a deep source of inspiration to our musical world and we are saddened by the passing of this great man.

† Willa Mae Buckner finally found a home for her 18 foot python Siam. She still lives with 17 foot Pepe whose eggs hatched seven baby snakes. Willa sold two, four of them would not eat from birth so she gave them to a local pet shop to nurse, one yet unnamed is still with her. Willa is featured in a 30 second Public Service Announcement directed by Mike Foley and filmed by Chris Peppy.

**WILLA MAE BUCKNER and SIAM**

*Photo: Axel Kanner*



**EUGENE POWELL** — *Photo: Axel Kanner*

## ARTISTS NOTES



TAJ MAHAL & RITCHIE HAVENS at Woodstock.

Photo: Tim Duffy

‡ Precious Bryant's trailer burned. Precious and her son Tony survived, but lost all of their material possessions. Social Services are helping them obtain another trailer. We at Music Maker plan to help Precious by having a well dug, a septic system put in place and purchase her a hot water heater. Precious is in need of everything.

‡ Frank Edwards appeared in a recent issue of People magazine as part of the Winston Blues Revival Ad Campaign. His quote, "If it ain't been in a pawn shop, it can't play the blues" has brought an enthusiastic response from the National Pawnbrokers Association.

‡ The Blues to Bop Festival in Lugano, Switzerland was a success for George Higgs, Little Pink Anderson and Lightnin' Wells. Norman Hewitt the artistic director/creator of this festival is a jewel.

‡ Essie Mae Brooks' leaking roof has been fixed.

‡ We were able to help Elder James & Mother Pauline Goins by producing 500 copies of their cassettes, "The Goins".

## ARTISTS NOTES

↳ Eider James & Mother Pauline Goins from Ridgeway, SC and Essie Mae Brooks of Perry, GA played the Lincoln Center "Out of Doors, American Music Festival," August 29th in New York City.

*Essie Mae Brooks opened the program, crooning and moaning about "old time" religion, bringing visions of our ancestral struggle to the fore. You can imagine grandmas scuffling a hymnal while washing*

*clothes by hand on an old washboard, or mama, offspring and extended family gathered grove-side in the woods, because a loved one was lynched or beaten to death. And Poppa could be seen in a worn rowboat, humming for hours while fishing for the family's next meal. More likely than not, their gospel was of medicinal value, a reminder that their pain and struggle will be abated when their Savior has the last say.*

*Mother Pauline & Eider James Goins followed with four delightful songs, echoing the apex of a*

*"believers" walk of faith. Living a life that is pleasing to God brings boldness to their songs like "Somewhere Listening for My Name," and "Highway to Heaven," in one's separation from "worldly ways" they sang "God's Got It," stressing that you should go to him and trust him for whatever you need. And, if you're of the belief that you can toy with being out of fellowship with the Creator, they made an indelible impression by singing "Time is Winding Up."*

by Talisa D. Moore  
The New York Amsterdam News



L to R: MIKE VERNON, CHRIS LAYTON, TOMMY SHANNON, DEREK O'BRIEN & JERRY "BOOGIE" McCAIN — Photo: Tim Duffy

↳ Producer Mike Vernon has recently recorded studio albums with Beverly "Guitar" Watkins in Atlanta and Jerry "Boogie" McCain in Austin and Memphis. Former bandmates for the infamous Interns, Roy Lee Johnson, Albert White and Curtis Smith are featured guests on Beverly's record. Jerry's record is smokin', perhaps his greatest album, with many fantastic supporting musicians.

‡ The Big Day is Coming!  
Thanks to the hard work and  
support of many,  
Cootie Stark: Sugar Man,  
Neal Pattman: Prison Blues and  
Guitar Gabriel: Deep In the South  
are being released as the Music  
Maker Series and will be available in  
stores everywhere on January 26th!

The series is released through  
Cello Recordings, who is proud to  
support the work of Music Maker,  
and is being distributed by  
Sire Records Group/WEA.

## MUSIC MAKER S I R E

### Cootie Stark: Sugar Man

Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Fikes

Cootie Stark built the bridge of the blues from their origins to the dawn of the millennium. This man, who has held these songs close about him all his life, has recorded them for the first time in his 77 year musical journey. His song log is the living oral tradition of the blues. This album reveals songs previously heard only by people who had met the man who played them. His timeless versions of familiar and obscure works show us that deep-rooted blues are still alive and vibrant, joined with a full blues band, dancing with a piano or a guitar. Cootie takes command and leads the listener on a journey through the Southern countryside straight to the promised land. - *Wesley Miles*

### Guitar Gabriel: Deep in the South

Featuring The Brothers in the Kitchen

Guitar Gabr boogies and cries hearted country blues on "Deep in the South". His first record in three decades. Born Robert Lewis Jones, he spent most of his life wandering the country with his guitar. He knew Blind Boy Fuller in his youth, traveled with carnivals and medicine shows, and performed with an appealingly wistful voice and sauntering 6-string style that's nicely complemented by several guitarists/producer Timothy Duffy and pianist Michael Formik. - *Joe Olrecht*

### Neal "BigDaddy" Pattman,

Prison Blues

Featuring Taj Mahal & Lee Fikes

Nobody makes moonshine, works a sawmill, chops wood or plays lary like 70 something Neal Pattman. Looking an arm or a wagon wheel at age nine hasn't slowed him at all. "16 years ago the Blues knocked on my door and they wouldn't leave." His testimony can be heard in a sound and a style his daddy taught him as child. - *Mike Foley*



## ARTISTS NOTES

↳ Expressin' the Blues, an anthology of 21 artists will be released in Europe in February.

↳ Future releases on the Music Maker Series include: John Dee Holeman: Bull Durham Blues, Alga Mae Hinson: Goin' Down the Road, Etta Baker: Railroad Bill.

↳ Jericho Records/Music Maker will be releasing the records of Jerry "Boogie" McCain and Beverly "Guitar" Watkins.

### JERRY "BOOGIE" McCAIN

Photo: Tim Duffy



L to R:  
PETER O'HARE,  
"GRAPEVINE"  
MANNING,  
TAYLOR MOORE &  
BEN, Aliceville, AL

Photo: Tim Duffy



## MUSIC MAKER NEWS

Winston Blues Revival  
Tour Dates - 1999  
All shows feature Taj Mahal,  
Cootie Stark, Beverly "Guitar"  
Warkins, Neal Pattman and  
Mudcat. Special guests and other  
Music Maker artists are planned  
to be at these events.



WILLA MAE BUCKNER & COOTIE STARK backstage at  
Ziggy's in Winston-Salem, NC  
Photo: Mark Austin

### JANUARY 1999

- Austin, TX • January 21 • Scubb's • For Info (512) 480-0203
- Houston, TX • January 23 • Big John's Icehouse • For Info (281) 497-3499
- Phoenix, AZ • January 28 • Cajun House-Scottsdale • For Info (602) 945-5208

### FEBRUARY 1999

- Los Angeles, CA • February 11 • B.B. King's Blues Club-Universal City • For Info (818) 622-5464
- San Francisco, CA • February 13 • Great American Music Hall • For Info (415) 885-0750
- Charlotte, NC • February 25 • Neighborhood Theater

### MARCH 1999

- New Orleans, LA • March 4 • The Howlin' Wolf • For Info (504) 586-0854
- Seattle, WA • March 11 • Kingst Theater
- Philadelphia, PA • March 24 • New Market Cabaret • For Info: (215) 925-3769

### APRIL - MAY 1999

- Cleveland, OH • April 8 • Fat Fish Blue • For Info (216) 875-6000
- Denver, CO • April 15 • The Casino
- New York City, NY • April 30 - May 1 • The Knitting Factory

Admission to all Revival Shows: \$10 at the door, 21 & Over Please.  
All Door Proceeds Benefit MMRF

## MUSIC MAKER NEWS



TAJ MAHAL, MUDCAT, MACAVINE HAYES,  
BEVERLY "GUITAR WATKINS" ARDIE DEAN &  
JOHN SCHWENKE

Photo: Mark Austin

### Winston BLUES REVIVAL

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Chicago     | San Francisco |
| Easton      | Cleveland     |
| Dallas      | New Orleans   |
| Atlanta     | Seattle       |
| Phoenix     | Philadelphia  |
| Austin      | Charlotte     |
| Houston     | Denver        |
| Los Angeles | New York      |

**MUSIC MAKER**  
Foundation



NEAL "BIG DADDY" PATTMAN & TAJ MAHAL opening night of the Winston Blues Revival.

Photo: Mark Austin

PHOTO FILES



CORA MAE BRYANT, Oxford, GA

Photo: Axel Kummer



JANIE RORIE, Winston-Salem, NC

Photo: Axel Kummer

WILLIE KING & FRIEND at the  
Freedom Creek Blues Festival,  
Aliceville, AL

Photo: Tim Dufly



HENRY STEWART  
behind the barn,  
Town Mountain, NC

Photo: Tim Dufly





**SAMUEL TURNER STEVENS, Asheville, NC**  
Photo: Tim Duffy

**GEORGE HIGGS, Tarboro, NC**  
Photo: Tim Duffy



**JOE BROWN and family, Pinnacle, NC**  
Photo: Tim Duffy



PHOTO FILES



DENISE DUFFY

Photo: Axel Kuttner



CARL RUTHERFORD, War, WY

Photo: Axel Kuttner



ALBERT DUCK, Aliceville, AL

Photo: Tim Duffy



ABE DUFFY,  
MMRF volunteer

Photo: Tim Duffy



CAPT. LUKE & WHISTLIN' BRITCHES

Photo: Axel Kuttner

## DONATIONS



*Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.*



### PREMIUMS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donation (fully tax deductible).  
All donations of \$20 or more includes one year subscription to M.M.R.F. newsletter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16" x 20" reproduction of photograph of David Johnson's hands by Axel Kusterer (quality suitable for framing); \$20 each.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guitar Gabriel and Cootie Stark Tee Shirts \$20 each, sizes L and XL (circle choice and size)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music Maker CDs  
Neal Pattman: Prison Blues  
Cootie Stark: Sugar Man  
Guitar Gabriel: Deep in the South  
Guitar Gabriel: Volume I  
Various Artists  
Expressin' the Blues  
A Living Part  
Come So Far  
\$20 each, \$20 for 2 or more.  
(circle CDs of choice)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Donation (no charge for shipping in US. International donors please add \$5 US)

Note: due to IRS regulations the entire amount of a donation is reduced by the retail value of premiums received by donors.

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 Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (day or eve, circle one)  
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If you would like to make your donation by Mastercard or Visa you may call us at 336.325.2205 (M-F 9-5 EST)  
 fax us at 336.325.2261 (anytime)  
 e-mail us at mmrff@att.com  
 or write to the below address

Mastercard / Visa (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (day here) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (eve here) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Or send check or money order to  
 Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.  
 Rt. 1, Box 347 • Perdue, NC 27641

## MISSION STATEMENT

### **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.

Our criterion for recipients is they be rooted in a Southern musical tradition, be 55 years or older and have an annual income less than \$18,000.

Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. is a tax exempt, public charity under IRS code 501(c) 3.

Visit our Website at [www.musicmaker.org](http://www.musicmaker.org)

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