

ARTIST 2015-16 ROSTER



MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION

ARTIST 2015-16 ROSTER

SUPPORTING AND
CELEBRATING
MISSISSIPPI'S
CREATIVE AND
INNOVATIVE SPIRIT.



MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION

The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) is a state agency serving more than two million people through grants and special initiatives that enhance communities, assist artists and arts organizations, promote arts education and celebrate Mississippi's cultural heritage.

Established in 1968 by the state legislature, MAC is the official grants-making and service agency for the arts in Mississippi. Funding for MAC and its programs is provided by the State of Mississippi, the National Endowment for the Arts, and private sources.

All applicants to MAC's programs are considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, physical disability, age, membership in an employee organization or other non-merit factors.

MAC's Artist Roster is a valuable tool in this effort – it provides Mississippi communities with a diverse listing of high quality artists who are available for performances, workshops, and other activities. These activities can be supported through MAC's Minigrant program.

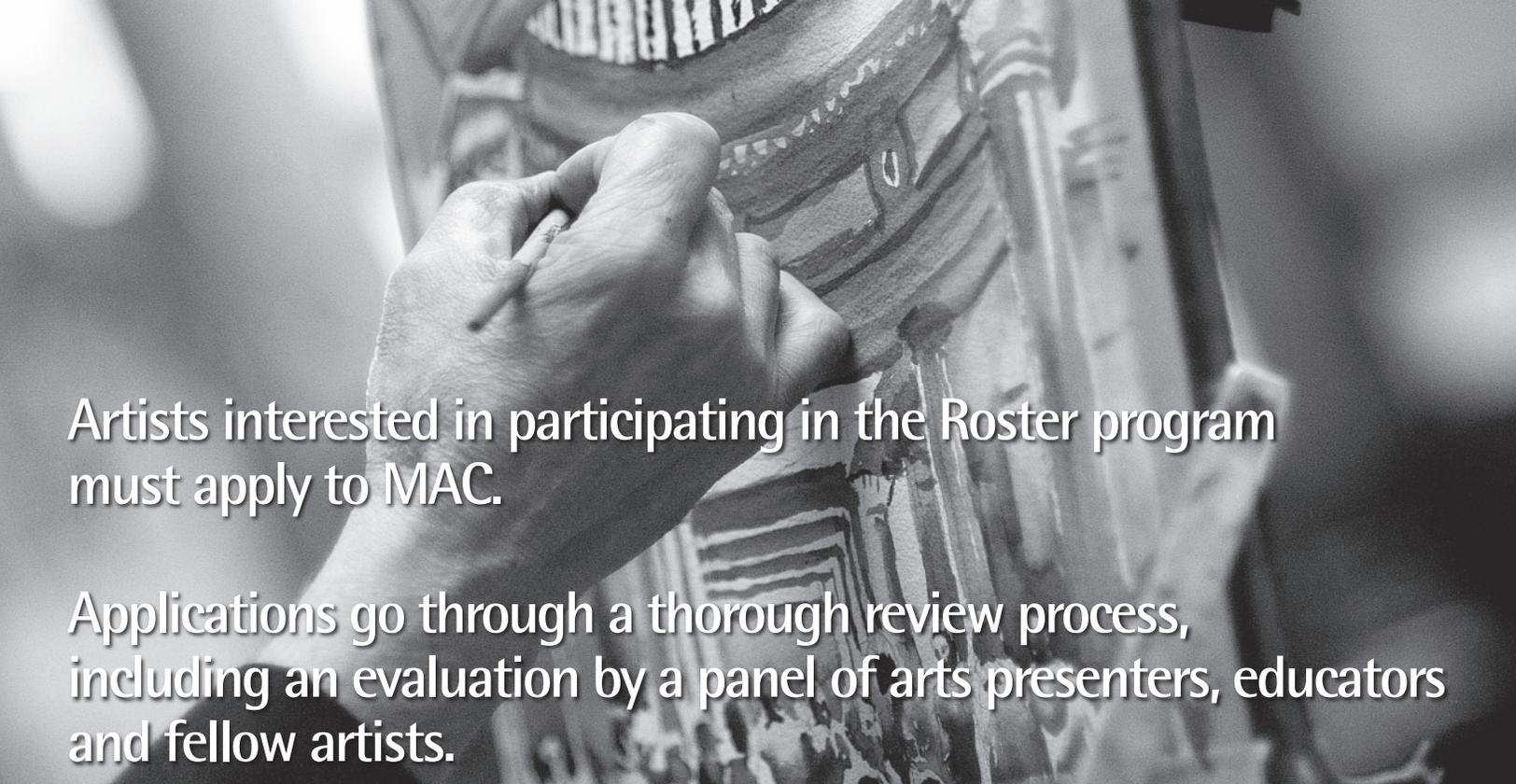


mac

mississippi arts commission

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www.arts.ms.gov



Artists interested in participating in the Roster program must apply to MAC.

Applications go through a thorough review process, including an evaluation by a panel of arts presenters, educators and fellow artists.

These Artists:

- Demonstrate mastery of their artistic discipline and produce high quality work.
- Are able to demonstrate or interpret their artistic discipline to different types of audiences.
- Have a history of successful performances or presentations and can travel to perform at locations throughout the state.

SCHEDULING AN ARTIST

Organizations or schools that are interested in presenting a Roster artist must contact the individual or group directly. While MAC staff can provide some advisory assistance to organizations that are planning an event, all agreements between a Roster Artist and a presenting organization are the responsibility of the presenter.

GRANT SUPPORT FOR PRESENTING ROSTER ARTISTS

MAC supports the presentation of Roster artists through its Minigrant Program. Non-profit organizations (with IRS 501(c)3 status), schools, and other local government entities can apply for a Minigrant to support up to half of a Roster Artist's total fee (up to \$1,000).

In addition to the artists on MAC's Roster, organizations may also apply for a Minigrant to present an artist who is a member of another directory of professional artists. The directory must have an adjudication process in place that reviews the artistic quality of the applicants. Some examples

of eligible listings include the Roster programs of other state arts agencies, regional arts organizations, or a professional artist organization like the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. The Minigrant program has two annual application deadlines, June 1 and November 1. The full guidelines and application form for the program are available on MAC's website.

For more information on MAC grant programs, please call 601/359-6030, or visit our website at www.arts.ms.gov.

Mississippi Artist Roster

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DANCE



Marlena Duncan

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Duncan is a dance educator and choreographer proficient in Modern Dance, Jazz, Tap, Ballet, and Hip-Hop. She is an award recipient of the 2014 Thad Cochran Distinguished Arts Educator in Dance, a 2013 Bates Dance Festival Educator Fellowship recipient, and a licensed dance educator and

physical education instructor through the MS Department of Education. She is certified in Pilates Mat through Steele Pilates and holds a Pilates Reformer certificate from the Pilates Place of MS. Most recently, Marlena instructed dance for the 2015 Janice Wyatt MSAI Bologna Performing Arts Center summer camp at Delta State. Her musical choreography credits include South Pacific and Guys and Dolls for MS College, Seussical Jr., High School Musical Jr., The Little Mermaid Jr., and Hairspray The Musical, for New Stage Theatre, and All You Need is Love, for Belhaven University. Marlena is currently on faculty as dance educator at Power Academics and Performing Arts Complex, and MS College. In 2003, she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is currently working towards her Masters of Arts in Teaching at Belhaven University.

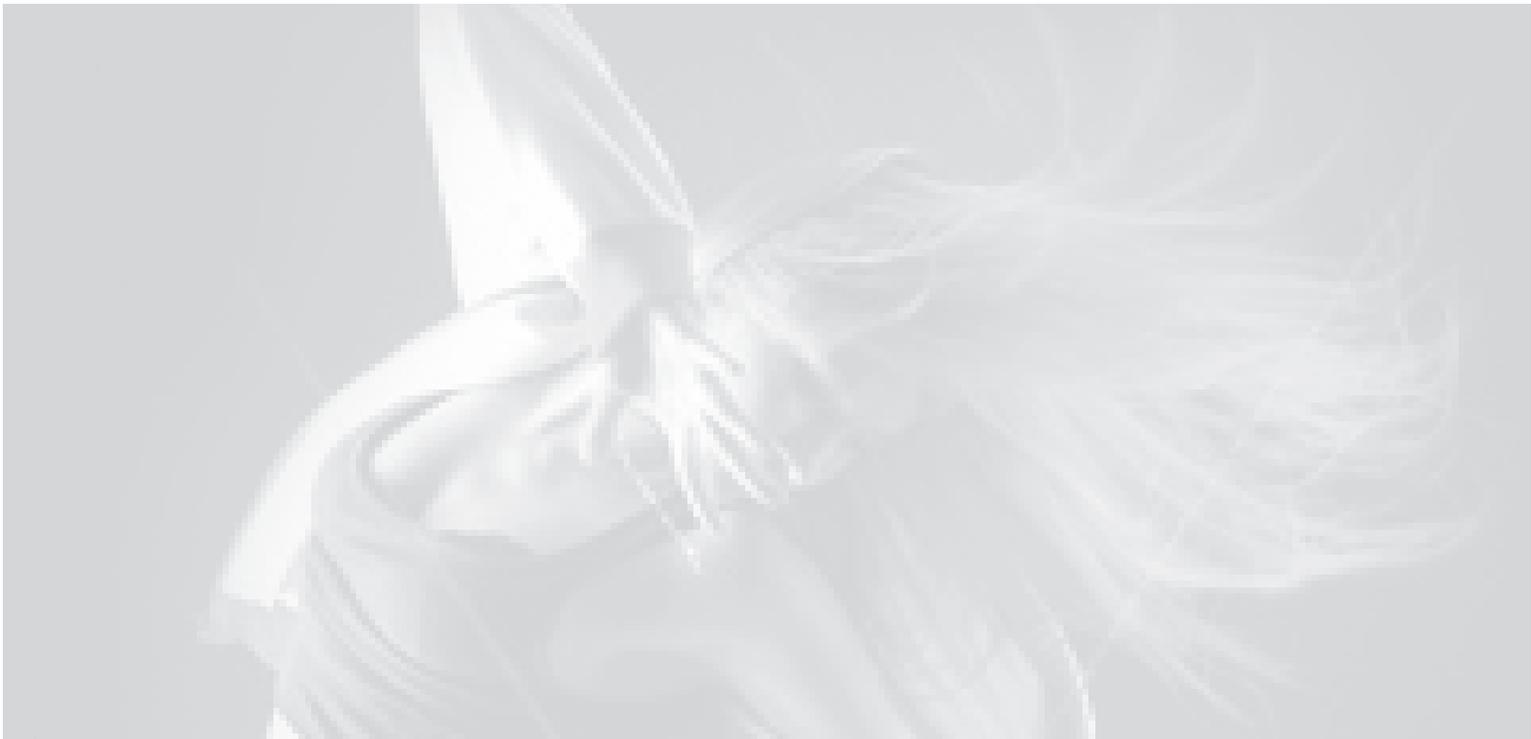


Front Porch Dance

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Front Porch Dance, a 501©3 non-profit organization, is a Mississippi-based dance company comprised of local artists who collaborate to produce innovative choreographic works. Its aim is to foster appreciation of

contemporary dance by engaging audiences through approachable dance art. Front Porch Dance practices an American-born dance form, cultivated and shaped by a merging of formal training and artistic exploration to create a blend of quality, detail, and freedom. Front Porch Dance offers workshops in dance technique, improvisation and composition and is available for performances in theaters, as well as non-traditional performance venues.



PERFORMANCE & LITERARY ARTS



Dianne Butler

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Butler, weaver of story magic, has been telling stories for over 25 years. Tell her your needs and she will customize a program to fit those needs. She tells stories in a very unique way that appeals to both children and adults, getting

audience members involved in her creative storytelling techniques. As a school librarian, her main focus is to create an excitement about reading and exploring literature. Folktales, original stories, and stories based on published books are just a part of her programs. As an amateur magician, she involves her audience with magic tricks. She has performed for groups at public libraries, school libraries, churches, girl scouts and cub scouts. In addition, she has conducted workshops to help adults learn to tell stories to children and teachers who would like to incorporate storytelling into Common Core. She is very entertaining, weaving stories and magic into a unique and exciting program.



June Caldwell

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Hammered dulcimer, folk harp, Native American flute, lap dulcimer, guitar and other instruments to give listeners a total story experience. Storytelling sessions can be tailored to the listeners' needs, and include stories written by Caldwell, Native American legends and tales, Southern, African and Appalachian

Folktales, and stories of Southern women. Stories teach lessons of cooperation, understanding, and peace. Programs are interactive, with audience members joining June onstage to play parts, provide sound effects, and play some of her unusual, handmade instruments, many made from recycled "junk" materials. Programs are available for all ages, from preschool to adult. Caldwell also speaks Spanish, so bi-lingual stories and songs are available.



Sarah C. Campbell

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Campbell creates picture books with facts and photographs. Campbell's latest book, *Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature*

(Boyd's Mills Press, 2014), is her second book that explains an interesting mathematical pattern and explores the ways it shows up in nature. It follows *Growing Patterns: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2010). Her first book, *Wolfssnail: A Backyard Predator* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2008), tells the story of a snail that eats other snails and slugs. Kids, teachers, librarians, parents, and grandparents have embraced both books for their simple, compelling texts and stunning up-close photographs. All three are ALSC Notable Children's Books; *Mysterious Patterns* is a Cook Prize Honor Book; and *Wolfssnail* is a Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book. In addition to creating books, Campbell also teaches. She conducts short-term arts integrated residencies featuring photography in schools, presents professional development for teachers and librarians who want to infuse their lessons with nature, photography, and book-making, and teaches nonfiction writing and photography to other writers.



June Davis Davidson

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Davidson is the author of *Images of Meridian* and the co-author of *Legendary Locals in Meridian*. Her nonfiction short stories have appeared in *Pets Across America, Volume III* and *Gallery of Voices*.

Her focus is on writing and preserving regional history. Davidson's presentations are offered to rural communities, libraries, organizations and schools. Her knowledge is based on her skills as an author of regional history and thirty years of research experience.



Doris Jones
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Drawing from a wide range of classroom and library experiences, Jones teaches and promotes reading while keeping the audience engaged with her animated, interactive style. She travels throughout the state to present elementary school residencies, using folktales and original stories as springboards to help teachers meet language arts, social studies, and theatre objectives.



Laff Co.
 Improv Comedy
 Bruce Butler/Director
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Laff Co. is a semi-professional improvisational comedy troupe based in Oxford MS. They offer shows, both long form and short form, tailored to meet the needs of the audience as well as workshops on a wide range of improvisational skills. *Laff Co.'s current members:* Bruce Butler-Director of Laff Co., coordinator for Southeastern Comedy Arts Festival (SECAF), MC/Host of Standup Comedy. Dillon Courson-Assistant Director of Laff Co. and Improvisational comedian since 2008 as well as standup experience. Carolyn Free-Improvisational comedienne since 2008 with four years experience with the Oxford Shakespeare Festival, two years formal training in theatre studies with The University of Mississippi as well as some standup experience. Brian Spurlock-Improvisational performer since 2009, currently studying to become a medical researcher. Joseph Stinchcomb-Improvisational performer since 2010. Jayson Wirth-Assistant Director of Laff Co. and improvisational comedian since 2009, as well as touring as a standup comedian.



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Serving as president of the Gulf Coast Writers Association for over ten years, Dr. Philip Levin has promoted writers with the group's magazine, the *Magnolia Quarterly*, their annual Mississippi Based anthologies, monthly guest lecturers, and two regionally successful Southern Expression conferences. At over 180 members, GCWA is the largest writing association in the state. He brings in guest lecturers and special events, such as "The Magic of Books." His first novel, the suspense thriller *Inheritance*, 2007, sold out its first printing and made the local best seller list twice. He's published two children photo books, "Ndovu the Elephant" of Africa, and the Chinese "Consuto and the Rain God," seven GCWA anthologies, a series of 'tween books, a series of five audio books, and nearly a hundred stories and articles in print, on line, and in audio edition. He also

writes historical fiction, including his Bible Stories, "Altered Perspectives," and non-fiction medical articles, as well as regular features in local magazines "Gulf Coast Women," "See South Mississippi," and "Parents and Kids." His work has won first place in the Mississippi State contest and multiple other prizes, including the NOLA RWA Grand Prize for his romance novel. His published novel, "The Tides of Mississippi," has also won numerous awards.



Annie B. McKee
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Annie B. McKee is a Mississippi storyteller and author. She is a literary, performing artist which includes teaching creative writing for children and adults. Everything Mississippi rings through Annie's work, whether storytelling, short plays, written books, newspaper and magazine articles, or historic tours. Annie has been a guest storyteller for Mississippi Public Broadcasting (radio) Commentaries Program, Paul Ott's Listen to the Eagle radio show and several additional radio stations throughout the state. She is active with the arts and educational communities in Mississippi. She writes a weekly editorial featured in The Meridian Star : www.themeridianstar.com. Her work can be found in *Mississippi Magazine*, *Today's Mississippi Woman*, *LEGENDS Magazine*, *Sweet Tea & Afternoon Tales*, *Pets Across American Vol I & II*, and recently released *Magnolias & Afternoon Tales*, plus several anthologies and southern journals. Her short biography featuring the life of Eudora Welty will publish the last quarter of 2014. Annie's recent book project, *Historic Photos of Mississippi*, published by Turner Publishing, Nashville, continues to be a bestseller for the publisher and available at most bookstores throughout the Southeast. *Remembering Mississippi* is an additional book for Turner Publishing Co. Annie is the Director of the largest storytelling event in East Mississippi. The Rose Hill Cemetery Costumed Tour, Meridian, is presented each last Saturday in September, with 1,000 to 2,000 attendees each time. The event teaches Mississippi history and heritage through the arts of drama and storytelling. She will soon be featured as a Mississippi history/heritage storyteller in the upcoming documentary, Natchez Trace Project due to produce in early 2015 via National Public Broadcasting/Mississippi Public Broadcasting.



Benjamin Morris
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A native of Hattiesburg, Benjamin Morris is a poet, fiction writer and essayist whose work appears in such places as *The Oxford American*, *The Edinburgh Review*, and *The New Orleans Review*. A researcher with the Open University (UK), he is the recipient of a poetry fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission and a residency from A Studio in the Woods in New Orleans. His most recent book is *Hattiesburg, Mississippi: A History of the Hub City*, published by the History Press in 2014. He offers readings of his work and lectures on topics of local history and literature, as well as writing workshops in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to all ages and audiences.



New Stage Theatre
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 education@newstagetheatre.com
 www.newstagetheatre.com

New Stage Theatre brings literature to life through its educational tours. Each show is formatted for flexible staging and is adaptable to a number of playing areas. Workshops help students learn to tell stories through improvisation and scripted plays. They can also enhance verbal and non-verbal communication skills, emphasize the collaborative nature of theatre, and provide new avenues to help teachers across the curriculum.



Puppet Arts Theatre
 Contact: Peter Zapletal
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Puppet Arts Theatre is a professional touring theatre company under the direction of

Peter Zapletal, a five-time Emmy Award winning puppeteer. The company makes its own puppets and travels with flexible staging, sound and lights. They offer a complete theatre experience in any setting, which at times allows children from the audience to perform with the cast on stage.

Puppet Arts Theatre also enhances students' speaking abilities, thinking skills and appreciation of literature & music through creative puppetry workshops in schools.



Richelle Putnam
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Putnam is a recipient of the 2014 Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Fellowship. She holds diplomas from The Institute of Children's Literature, Gotham Writers Fiction Certificate Program, Open College for the Arts Advanced Writing Program, Writers

Digest and other accredited writing institutions. She teaches creative writing at Meridian Community College and through libraries, schools and online. Her writing awards include *Writers Digest*, *Writers Journal*, *Song of the Year*, *Songwars*, *Billboard Songwriting* and *American Songwriting Magazine* and more. Her literary work has been published in *Common Ties*, *Pif Magazine*, *The Copperfield Review*, *Birmingham Arts Journal* and two bestselling series: *A Cup of Comfort for Mothers and Daughters* and *A Cup of Comfort for Christmas Prayer* and *A Cup of Comfort Twelve Days of Christmas* and more. Her work was chosen for The Copperfield Review's 10th Anniversary Celebration Anthology. She

writes for *Town & Gown Magazine*, *Mississippi Magazine*, *Parents & Kids*, *Well Being*, *Portico*, and *Social South* magazines. Her non-fiction books include *Lauderdale County, Mississippi*; *a Brief History*, *Legendary Locals of Meridian, Mississippi* and *The Inspiring Life of Eudora Welty*, which received the 2014 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Silver Medal in YA non-fiction e-book.



Terrence Roberts
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Roberts is a jali/griot, a storyteller who weaves his stories like the web of his favorite character Anansi the Spider. He is a collector of tales worldwide but is

most known for his African and African American folktales. Roberts is known as "Da Story Weaver". In the language of the Bamanakan people of West Africa, the ancient title "Da" was one who connected his people to their past and escorted them into their future. His performances live up to the title "Da". Roberts takes his listeners back to the village square in West Africa waiting for the Anansi story for the day. A master storyteller who draws both children and adults into his web with his animated and interactive style, "Da Story Weaver" causes both to spontaneously burst out with laughter or jump with surprise at a ghost story. Roberts is available for schools, libraries, festivals, churches, community groups and special events.



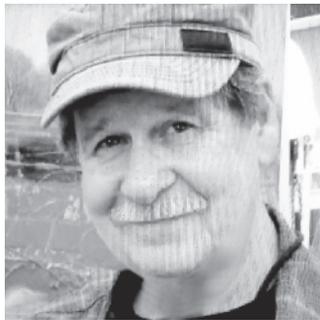
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For the last five years, Sims has worked professionally as, "The Old Story Teller"

traveling throughout the state of Mississippi, storytelling and reenacting episodes from Mississippi and American History that is centered on Slavery, the Civil War, Sharecropping, Blues, Gospel and the Civil Rights Movement. Each of her performances are stories based on authentic facts and are rich in the African American Cultural Heritage. In her performances she portrays actual characters with factual sayings, dialect and events as they actually unfolded, which makes for not only an educational but an entertaining experience. Her oral and visual storytelling makes the history that she is conveying realistic to the viewers; it pulls them into another time and place in history. Performances as "The Old Story Teller" have allowed her to educate and bring excitement to not only children but to the adults who know little or nothing about their history or cultural heritage.



VISUAL ARTS & CRAFTS



Rick Anderson

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Anderson is an award-winning professional artist, retired arts educator, children's book illustrator,

and presenter. He offers many artistic and educational opportunities for schools, libraries, arts councils, and literary events from breakout sessions to Young Author Fairs and Keynote presentations. He has presented to hundreds of schools throughout the US and Germany promoting literacy through book illustration, studio art workshops, and arts education conferences. His pencil, pen/ink, and painting/2Dimensional mixed media workshops are very popular with art councils and art organizations. His art can be seen in galleries, and art festivals in Mississippi and throughout the U.S.



Antoinette Badenhurst

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Badenhurst spent the past 35 years developing her artistic ceramic skills while teaching others about clay. Her personal journey in which she and her

family emigrated from South Africa to Saltillo, MS as well as the 7 years she and her husband lived in Chicago, IL had an impact on her artistic growth. Operating from her studio, Badenhurst has taught private students, worked in schools, colleges and craft institutions around the globe. Her teaching has been enriched by working with troubled children, prisoners, and persons with disabilities. She has worked with all age groups, from beginners to advanced levels. Badenhurst is available for one hour presentations, up to two week-long workshops. Her inspirational talks and presentations vary from light hearted stories to serious encouragement as she believes that creative thinking is the key to personal enrichment and excellence in the workforce.



Cristen Craven Barnard

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With more than 23 years of experience, Barnard offers a unique blend of painting expertise and public art experience. Her interior and exterior murals are on display in schools, parks, churches, cities and towns and residences across the Mid-South area and her posters are known worldwide. She

can design, collaborate, plan, instruct or paint murals with almost any group or by herself and she can design award winning posters that inspire civic pride with her artistic excellence.



Conner Burns

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Burns is a studio artist in Natchez, Mississippi. He works with the vessel form, sculptural forms and installations.

Images of his work can be found in publications about teapots, pitchers, bowls, tumblers, glazes and more. Burns teaches workshops through North America to professional and amateur artists. He is the founder of the kids clay camp (Natchez, MS), Natchez clay (a cooperative community of clay artists in Natchez, MS) and the Natchez project (a yearly gathering of professional clay artists to share techniques and ideas). His primary media is clay, but he also creates sculpture with metal and resins. Burns' workshops vary in length from simple presentations (one or more hours) to in-depth workshops (one day to two weeks in length) and vary from simple visual presentations to detailed hands on processes. Burns' artwork is organically influenced and combines a variety of techniques (and sometimes materials) in the creation.



Tony Davenport

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Davenport is a visual artist whose workshops are aimed to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to realize their own personal creativity. Davenport's programs are centered around the basic elements and principles of design, painting in the mediums of acrylic, oil, pastel and watercolor, 3D design, mask-making and mural design. The artist has experience working as an art instructor in elementary, middle and high schools. In addition his programs integrate the use of arts activities that reach across school curriculum.



Chuck Galey

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Using Common Core Curriculum Standards and his unique experience as a children's book author/illustrator, Galey's goal is to inspire students to become life-long readers with a love of art. His interactive programs keep students engaged and learning by using proven, research-based retention strategies. Chuck is available to work with students and teachers for full day or three to five day residencies throughout the academic year and summer workshops.



Lori Gordon

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Gordon is a mixed media artist and writer. She works in many different forms of media including graphite, acrylic, handmade paper, fabric and polymer clay. Recently, one of her pieces was acquired by the Smithsonian Institution for their permanent collection. Lori has work in the collections of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, Robin Roberts, and Barack and Michelle Obama.



Bessie Johnson

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Johnson is a pine needle basket weaver and a charter member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. With simple supplies and respect for her past, she is now offering another exciting art revival, called burnt matchstick art. Her work is based on traditional coiling and wrapping techniques common to many cultures, but her forms and designs are hers alone.



Dena Marie Ladner

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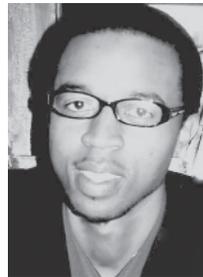
Ladner is a clay artist with an emphasis on functional wheel-thrown pottery pieces and hand-built whimsical sculptural designs. Her work is inspired by nature and by Asian culture. Ladner offers a variety of art classes and workshops to schools, community centers, churches, libraries, after school programs, and museums. Her passion is creating clay pieces; her gift is to share her passion with others.



Sheri C. Marshall

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Marshall became enchanted with clay early in life. While in high school she wanted to throw clay on the potter's wheel. Because she lost her right arm in a tragic accident at age three, the ceramics teacher was unsure if she'd be able to throw. With much patience and persistence she mastered the art, skill and control required to make pottery on the wheel. She has spent the last 30 years pursuing her pottery and tile on a part time basis through teaching, workshops and exhibitions of her art. She works in clay, fused/kilncast glass, precious metal clay and fiber.



George Miles

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Miles is a visual artist who specializes in photography, collage, mixed media and graphic design. He offers a wide range of arts and cultural workshops, teaching classes on drawing, painting, collage, photography, computer graphics, and more. A native of Starkville and a resident of Jackson, Miles graduated from Jackson State University with degrees in Graphic Design and Fine Arts. Miles has won several awards for his visual arts and his work has been exhibited in numerous places throughout the United States. Miles enjoys working with individuals from various walks of life. "I try to inspire and have an impact on communities. My work is like a mirror that reflects light toward social change." Miles is a leading pioneer in bridging the gap between art and community.



Harold Wayne Miller

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Miller is a potter and sculptor. He teaches programs that include the history of pottery and sculpting, the types of clay and glazes, as well as modeling forms, glazing effects, and the firing process. His students find relief from their concerns, create legacies for their families, and enjoy the art of working with clay.



Rosalind "Roz" Roy
 Heavenly Design by Roz Studio
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Working from her Heavenly Designs by Roz Studio in Jackson, Mississippi, Rosalind designs and creates her clay sculptures, collages and paintings.

Much of her subject matter comes from her life experiences or people she has met. She teaches clay and collage -painting workshops in her studio, schools, churches and at the Mississippi Craft Center. Rosalind focuses her classes in creative self-expression or use of the art medium of clay or collage as an integral part of an educational lesson/subject such as: science, geography, history or math. Classes can be for students or to instruct teachers on a particular class such as clay hand-building and the required materials. All classes emphasize concept, design and color.



Dayton Scoggins
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Scoggins is a world champion chainsaw sculptor. Children of all ages love to watch him turn a wood log into a wonderful piece of art using a chainsaw. His

sculptures are found in private and public collections in every state and many countries. Dayton is a featured artist in many schools "Arts Week" programs. Scoggins would be a great addition to any event as his work will mesmerize those in attendance



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Scoggins is a chainsaw artist who has been carving since he was a young teen. He now makes his living as a craftsman; turning wood into beautiful works of art. He mostly carves animals such as bears,

deer, and horses. He travels extensively to show others how he creates his beautiful work.



Robin Whitfield
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 www.robinwhitfield.com

Whitfield is a Mississippi native and Mississippi Audubon Master Naturalist who spends her time exploring the forests, rivers and swamps near her studio. She works on location with watercolors and natural pigments under the influence of seasonal

conditions, plants, and animals of specific places. Whitfield offers exhibitions, presentations and workshops that connect audiences to the natural world by viewing her artworks. She also offers on-site experiences and creative workshops designed for discovery and experimentation. Whitfield's mission is to inspire people to go outside and explore wild places.



Bill Wilson
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 www.billwilsonstudio.com
 www.billwilsonillustration.com
 www.billwilsonjewelry.com

Wilson is a painter with broad and extensive experience. With his smooth easygoing style, a whole new world opens up to his students. One comment heard consistently is "this is the first time I understood how to make the paint do what I wanted it to do." Wilson teaches workshops and private lessons in painting, drawing, and computer graphics to students from middle school to adults. Comfortable in wet and dry traditional medium, he teaches through whichever medium students are most familiar. In the digital realm, Wilson has students bring their computers in order for them to use their software programs. Any level of proficiency is welcome. Wilson's Facebook page is regularly updated with his latest paintings and upcoming workshops. Wilson is also assistant editor of Mississippi Aesthetic Magazine, where his readers receive updates on workshops and classes offered.

MUSIC

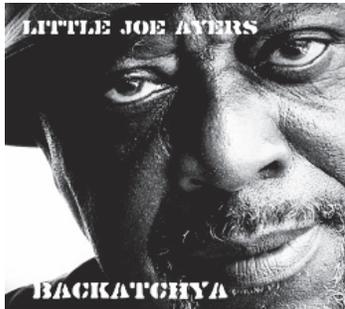


Dexter Allen

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Allen started out playing guitar at the church where his father was pastor. He performed with blues legend Bobby Rush around the world. His unique style landed him the 2008 Jackson Music

Award for Male Vocalist. He also lends his time and talents to blues workshops in area schools. He is known as one of the best 21st century Mississippi



Little Joe Ayers

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Ayers, son of sharecroppers in Marshall County, grew up doing whatever it took to get by, and steadily absorbed the indigenous sounds of the North Mississippi Hill Country. As a teen he learned

from Junior Kimbrough, and in 1968 he became the bass player for Kimbrough's Soul Blues Boys. He continued to play the festival/juke/house party circuit with Kimbrough until his death in 1998. Long recognized as a significant talent in his own right, Ayers resisted playing publicly on a regular basis for the next 10 years. But during that time, he perfected an acoustic version of the Hill Country Blues that combines the drone and rhythm, while simultaneously stamping every song with his own personality. His first release "Backatcha" won critical acclaim, and has led to increased appearances on the regional circuit.



Hannah Belle

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Cherry Picker Music South
Paul Southerland
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Singing in a gospel band with her siblings and her Daddy since she was three years old, Hannah Belle has learned how to make the stage her own. Growing up, she always told her parents

that she wanted to be a country music star like Faith Hill. Since

beginning her journey, she has made great strides towards making her dream come true. From her first festival in Port Gibson, MS, to the Country Music Association Fan Fair X in Music City in 2014, Hannah's progress has been steady as she has polished her skills performing at fairs and festivals in Mississippi and the surrounding states. A prolific songwriter, Hannah Belle, with her original songs and her seasoned Nashville musicians, would be a welcomed addition to any Mississippi family friendly event. You can find out more about her on her website, www.hannah-belle.com or www.facebook.com/hannahbellemusic.



Breaking Grass

Angie White -
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www.breakinggrass.com

With their fresh sound, original material, strong vocals and innovative musicianship, Breaking Grass is doing exactly what their name implies. Although not quite traditional, the music they present is without a doubt steeped in the timeless genre they grew up listening to. Comprised of Cody Farrar on guitar; Tyler White on fiddle; Thelton Vanderford on banjo; Zach Wooten on mandolin; and Britt Sheffield on bass; this relatively new band formed with one goal in mind - to make music that all ages could enjoy. Breaking Grass's current album, Just as Strong, on Mountain Fever Records has reached #4 on the Billboard Chart, has been the most played album on Sirius-XM, and has the number one played song, Shine, multiple months on Sirius-XM along with many other chart appearances. Breaking Grass is available for hire at live performances, workshops, and private parties.



Eden Brent

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www.yellowdogrecords.com/eden
www.piedmonttalent.com

Award-winning pianist and vocalist Eden Brent blends her signature blues and

boogie-woogie with subtleties of jazz, soul, gospel and pop. An accomplished soloist and bandleader, her unshakeable talent and carefree demeanor have taken her across country and around the world to perform at festivals, concerts, theaters and clubs. A natural entertainer, she also offers boogie piano master classes and workshops, and presents Blues in the Schools programs for nearly every age and proficiency level. Recognized with numerous awards and nominations, Brent is a three-time Blues Music Award winner, a MAC Folk Arts Fellowship recipient, and she received the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Popular Music Composition Award for her acclaimed album Ain't Got No Troubles. She has appeared in various national publications including USA Today, Garden & Gun and Blues Revue and has been featured on national broadcasts like NPR Weekend Edition, American Routes and House of Blues Radio Hour. Following the 2012 release of The Brent Sisters Party Dress, a collaboration with her two singer-songwriter sisters, Brent continued to tour and released her fourth solo album in Fall 2013. Fee and technical requirements are flexible and determined by the type of appearance.



Jerry Brooks

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 601/854-5710
 consultair1@gmail.com

Jerry Brooks presents a musical stage show that covers genres from first generation country to acoustic rock and original tunes performed on guitar, banjo and mandolin.

He draws from a rich background of knowledge that covers his 50 years as a professional musician. An overview of the historical background of the tunes can be included for educational purposes. Performances can range from solo to a full band as required by the venue.



K.D. Brosia

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 www.kdbrosia.com

Brosia is a soul and rhythm & blues vocalist, actor, and music composer. Brosia holds an undeniable excitability factor whether

he is performing with his band of amazing musicians or supported by superbly produced tracks. His performances are always positively memorable and repeat requests. Engaging audiences with impressive interpretations of music from jazz to rock, multilingual Brosia excels and captivates the attention of his audiences with ease across the globe. Vocalist Brosia has been performing professionally for more than fifteen years. During this period he's released two cds – Boku Desu released in Japan and Love Is... released in the United States. Brosia performs for private events, as an opening act for prominent artists, and tours with other independent and major artists.



Kenny Brown

Contact: Sara Davis Brown
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With his own Kenny Brown Band, he has applied the powerful cry-and-moan singing style of the hills and those relentless, droning guitars to his own distinctive sound, earning him Musician magazine's praise as "simply the best

white slide player you might ever hear." Brown's unique musical talent is highlighted in his appearance in the Paramount Vantage film Black Snake Moan based on the life of R.L. Burnside, starring Hollywood famed Samuel L. Jackson. Brown's CD, Meet Ya In The Bottom, released in 2008 has enjoyed remarkable sales as reviews revealed, "If Keith Richards were born in Mississippi it would sound like this." Kenny's most recent CD, Can't Stay Long, reviews sum up the latest CD, "Kenny has become increasingly recognized as an international force in his own right since R.L. Burnside's death in 2005, his abilities have never been a secret to those of us living in North Mississippi."



Ricky Burkhead

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<http://rickyburkhead.com>
youtube.com/user/rbsoulful

Burkhead has a performance background in many musical styles and instruments. His musical training

began at age 12 and has been a life-long process. His performing experience is extensive and covers musical styles including African, Caribbean, Latin American, R & B, Urban, and various world music styles. He can perform a variety of programs including Caribbean culture that is a lecture/performance/history of the steel drum; West African culture that covers the history/performance of the Djembe and Kalimba; or a solo percussion recital featuring (marimba, vibraphone, drumset and a variety of orchestral and ethnic percussion instruments). His workshop/master class/lectures are informative and audience friendly. Students and teachers are encouraged to participate in African, Caribbean and American songs, music and dance. Burkhead formed the first steel drum band in the state of Mississippi while teaching at Mississippi Valley State University in 1986. All instruments and sound equipment are provided for each performance. He dresses in costumes that are typical of each country or region he lectures about.



Cedric Burnside

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<http://Cedricburnside.com>
<http://cadmium-neworleans.com/cedric-burnside-project-artist-profiles.html>

Cedric Burnside is a dynamic and passionate performer who keeps the legacy of his grandfather, RL Burnside alive as he blazes new trails with his constantly evolving fusion of Mississippi Hill Country Blues, Funk, R&B and Soul. People of all ages respond to this artist's engaging manner and infectious smile. His energy and his love for music are highly contagious & any audience would be hard pressed to stand still at any of his performances. Cedric, along with Trenton Ayers, his highly talented guitarist, bring authenticity, history steeped in culture, and soul-filling, boot-stomping music to their live performances. One can only be enriched and elevated when bearing witness to The Cedric Burnside Project. Cedric has performed and Recorded With: R.L. Burnside, Burnside Exploration, Jimmy Buffett, T Model Ford, Bobby Rush, Honey Boy Edwards, North Mississippi Allstars, Galactic, Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears, Widespread Panic, John Spencer Blues Explosion. Cedric also just won the 2013 Memphis Blues Award for Drummer of the Year. This is the third time Cedric has won this prestigious award.



Duwayne Burnside

Contact: Sara Davis Brown
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The son of R.L. Burnside, Duwayne was born into the North Mississippi Hill Country Blues. He was raised around legends like Junior Kimbrough and

Kenny Brown. He was also tuned into the music of his generation pulsing out of the Blues and R&B scene in Memphis, and spent years apprenticing to legends like Little Freddie King, BB King and others. After recording and touring Hill Country drenched blues rock with the North Mississippi Allstars, Duwayne has spent the last several years fronting his own band and honing his unique combination of North Mississippi Hill Country Blues, Memphis rhythm, and hard edged guitar.



Garry Burnside

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Burnside, son of legendary RL Burnside, was born into the North Mississippi hill country blues, with the sounds of the music reverberating throughout his youth. Like many of his siblings and cousins, he was raised playing drums, guitar, and whatever other instruments were available, joining in the droning rhythms and endless jams of his family and friends at area house parties and juke joints. By age 13, he was playing bass and rhythm weekly with

Junior Kimbrough at his juke joint, and touring with him as well. He also frequently sat in with his father, his older brother Duwayne, and Kenny Brown. Garry has recorded with his cousin Cedric as the Burnside Exploration, as well as with several other hill country musicians. He's performances try to take the hill country tradition into the realm of a harder edged rock and roll sound. He covers many blues standards, including the hill country songs he grew up with, but always adds his own electric edge, taking it in a slightly different direction than his contemporaries.



Grady Champion

www.gradychampion.com
www.facebook.com/gradychampion
twitter.com/gradychampion
www.youtube.com/user/gradychampion



Grady Champion, "The Mississippi Bluesman," was raised on a small farm outside of Canton, MS and was the youngest of 28 children. It seems that his life has, in many ways, prepared him to be an outstanding blues man. He is

currently playing around 180 shows a year as a blues entertainer. Champion's career hit the fast track when he won the 2010 International Blues Challenge. Since then he has released a best-selling album, been nominated for numerous awards, and has traveled the world singing his unique style of blues. Some acclamations that Grady has receive includes a 2012 Blues Music Award Nomination for Soul Blues Album of the Year, a 2012 Blues Music Award Nomination for song of the year for the song "Thank You for Giving Me the Blues," "Make that Monkey Jump" was awarded the 2012 Blues Critic Award for Best Down Home Blues Song. Grady Champion is continuing in his career to keep the blues alive in Mississippi and worldwide.



Crooked Creek

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Consultair1@gmail.com

Crooked Creek String Band is a four piece group that plays bluegrass and a variety of other musical genres on traditional acoustic instruments: guitar, banjo,

mandolin, Dobro (resophonic guitar) and bass. The band features expert picking, tight vocal harmonies and a varied and impressive repertoire. Crooked Creek offers performances for clubs and restaurants, festivals, business groups, weddings, private parties, and other public or private events.



Viola Dacus and Carol Joy Sparkman

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Mezzo-soprano Viola Dacus and pianist Carol Joy Sparkman offer art song recitals and master classes. One of the duo's most enthusiastically received programs is the song cycle, Reflections in the Mirror of Childhood, which was composed for Dacus by award winning Mississippi composer James Sclater. The cycle, for which Sclater wrote both text and music, is based on Dacus's recollections of growing up in rural Yazoo County, MS. The songs range from tender reflections on a cemetery visit to a romping trip to a country store. They leave audiences laughing, crying, and eager to talk about their own reflections of growing up in the south. In addition to recitals, Viola performs opera, oratorio, and concert repertoire. She is on the faculty of Mississippi College in Clinton. Carol Joy is also an active performer and on the faculty of Mississippi College.



Ken Davies

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ken@kendavies.net

Davies has worked lifelong as a composer, performer, conductor and teacher. His award-winning compositions range from song to electronic soundscape and he has become a familiar face at many new music festivals across the USA. His concert work has received yearly ASCAP awards since 2004. His Three Pieces for bass trombone and piano was the 2009 national prize winning composition at the Eastern Trombone Workshop Competition sponsored by the U.S. Army Band in Washington D.C. He was twice awarded Performing Artist Fellowship in Composition and is the 2013 Mississippi Music Teachers' Association commissioned composer. Ken is available for commissions creating musical works for musical ensembles, filmmakers, dance groups and others seeking to bring new works to their audiences. He also offers workshops and master-classes in songwriting, musicians' copyright matters, and music technology.



Vergia Towner Dishmon

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vtdishmon@aol.com

Singer, arranger and composer, Dishmon often referred to as "The Songbird" is blessed with the gift of song. Her performances have taken her all over the United States and even to Europe where she toured for three weeks to standing room only crowds. She has performed feature roles in several musical theater presentations. A former teacher of English and Speech Communication, she delights in entertaining and instructing audiences with the origin, history and interpretation of the much loved hymns of the church. She has recorded three CDs. Her

latest offering, via the recording arena is a collection of hymns and revered gospel selections. In 2005, she was a part of "The Gospel of Colonus" a nationally acclaimed production and in 2006 starred in "Crowns" a musical play produced by New Stage Theater, a professional acting company. She is a part of the drama group, "Daughters of Margaret", named after the poet/professor, Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander who dedicates itself to the positive portrayal of African Americans and women. Whether in a theater or on stage, large or small church, her voice has blessed people where ever she has appeared.



King Edward

www.kingedwardblues.com
www.hitheroadentertainment.com
Contact: Peggy Brown 601/613-7377

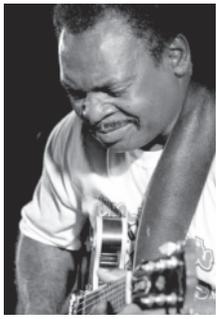
King Edward is an authentic Mississippi blues musician with Louisiana and Chicago roots who can play R&B and jazz as well. King has played with legends such as McKinley Mitchell, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and Sam Myers. He was a regular guitarist at the famous Subway Lounge in Jackson, MS and was featured in "The Last of the Mississippi Jukes." King recorded his first album with the historic Ace Record Company in Jackson. He has played festivals and venues across Mississippi, the Southeast and Midwest and twice at The Chicago Blues Festival. King Edward leads his own band (The King Edward Band) or duo act, and can perform as an acoustic act. He has participated in Blues in the Schools programs, as well as Blues symposiums, teaching students and adults about the Blues and Mississippi's music heritage. King has been honored on three blues markers on the State of Mississippi Blues Trail; The Subway Lounge, The Queen of Hearts, and the Ace Records marker. He received a Peavey Award for his contribution to Mississippi music. He is a member of the Central Mississippi Blues Society and the International Blues Foundation, Central Mississippi Blues Society and the International Blues Foundation.



Emerald Accent Irish Music

Contact: Clark Lowery
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Emeraldaccent.com

Emerald Accent Irish Music was founded in the spring of 2010 for the enhancement of the Celtic cultures through music in South Mississippi. Emerald Accent includes members Clark Lowery (vocals, guitar, banjo), Gail Fox (fiddle), Tom McCandlish (bodhran, vocals). With backgrounds in Irish, Bluegrass, Blues and Classical, the band brings freshness to the genre while priding itself in the Irish traditional style. The band loves working as a ceili band while also producing slow soothing slow jigs and waltzes. We have played for festivals, dances, concerts, pubs, weddings, and receptions. Emerald Accent is a well-rounded band for those who enjoy Irish and Scottish music. Their work includes a CD, "Laurel Green" (For sale on our website, CD Baby, Amazon, and iTunes). They are currently working on a Scottish CD, "For Love of Scotland," to be released in the fall of 2015.



“Little Willie” Farmer

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Farmer is a self-taught guitarist, who developed a style that is closest to the Memphis Blues, a mixture of Soul and Blues. He writes and performs original music and has produced several CDs. He performs in clubs,

festivals, and for private parties and also does Blues education workshops, having worked with Johnnie Billington, and Jerry Fair in the Montgomery County School District, the Montgomery County Arts Council and Action Communication and Education Reform’s Cultural Arts and Multimedia Project. He often has musical roles in various plays and events within the community. He has been hired as an actor/musicians for a cultural play entitled, “No Turning Back” by Dorothy Henson Coffee. Farmer has been playing as a musician for over 40 years.



Gritz The Band

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Gritz The Band is the latest iteration of the group which until early 2015 was known as Silver. They have performed for several Mississippi Main Street Association events, opened for Pepsi Pops on the Reservoir in Jackson, performed for the Mid-South Farm & Gin Show at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, played several community festivals and other events around the state, and rocked Jackson’s ultimate band venue, Hal & Mal’s. They chose to pay homage to those great musicians and songs that have been a part of the fabric of our lives for decades. Their music comes from the repertoires of The Eagles, Johnny Cash, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Willie Nelson, Roy Orbison, Bonnie Raitt, The Doobie Brothers, B. B. King, George Strait, Chuck Berry, Jimmy Buffett, Robert Johnson, Eric Clapton, The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, and Elvis Presley.



Britt Gully

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An accomplished musician yet as country as country can be, native Mississippian, Britt Gully, captures attention through his unique, southern talent. Britt’s musical talent is enhanced through his masterful storytelling, as he shares with his audience a wealth of

fats, anecdotes and just plain good stories, featuring the successes and heartaches of Jimmie Rodgers, “The Father of Country Music.” Britt grew up listening to Rodgers music at the feet of his father who not only taught him to play the guitar, but also instilled in him a deep respect for the land, music and the people who make it. “Genuine” is the perfect word for Britt and his homespun way, weaving his love for the songs, the romances, the drama and history into a musical performance that grips the heart.



Jim & Martha Hession

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Jim and Martha Hession, after a long career performing in West Coast

Jazz Clubs, Beverly Hills hotels and Disneyland, relocated to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2003. Within a few weeks, Jim had joined clarinetist Jack Maheu’s “Fire in the Pet Shop Band”, played on the Steamboat Natchez and was featured in Jimmy Maxwell’s Orchestra for the 2004 Mardi Gras Balls. At this time Jim and Martha entered into a promising relationship with the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, where they began a continuing series of themed educational shows on early jazz. The hessians have been able to draw on their years of experience in jazz historical research to produce shows that are innovative, informative and entertaining. In 2006, the Hessions join forces with reed virtuoso Ryan Burrage and his Rhythmakers, winning the Battle of the Bands for 2007 and 2008. Whether performing as a jazz club duo, headlining the American Quintet, TV appearances, producing stage shows, historical lectures, or all request programs, Jim and Martha Hession bring a level of talent and versatility not often found on the music scene.



Homemade Jamz Blues Band

Contact: Tricia Perry,
Manager
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Homemade Jamz Blues Band consists of three young siblings from Tupelo, Mississippi. Ryan Perry (lead and vocals), 23

years old, brother Kyle Perry (bass & backup), 21 years old, and their young sister, Taya Perry (drums), 16 years old, have followed and traveled the blues music scene since 2006. Their passion and dedication to their music (blues) has earned them great recognition amongst the greats and seasoned musicians.

Homemade Jamz had the privilege of performing for the US Olympics team and family members at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England. They’ve been on several radio programs such as, NPR, All Things Considered, WWOZ Radio, and WXPB Radio just to name a few. They have also been featured on several major Television Networks such as, CBS Sunday Morning, NBC The Today’s Show, and Kozi TV (NBC affiliate), The Next Great Family Band, PBS, The Tavis Smiley Show, and The Monique Show on BET. Homemade Jamz continue to contribute a new outlook and a young vibe to not only dedicated blues lovers but also attracting new fans to their music (blues) as well as blues music as a whole.



Impromptu Piano Quartet

Contact: Theresa Sanchez
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Stephen Redfield, violin
Hsiaopei Lee, viola
Alexander Russakovsky, cello
Theresa Sanchez, piano

The Impromptu Piano Quartet, formed in 2006, offers performances and/or master classes on any of our four instruments. All of the members hold Doctorate degrees in Musical Arts, with a combined many years of teaching experience. Their concerts are best enjoyed in chamber music venues, and our repertoire is from the classical, romantic, and twentieth-century periods, including composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Dvorak, Faure, Mahler, Bridge, and Turina. Their chamber music combination is less common than the string quartet or piano trio, but major composers have contributed beautiful and impressive repertoire. They are constantly expanding and exploring new music. Their technical requirements include a tuned grand piano and three music stands, and our fee structure is negotiable. They promote ourselves through colleges and universities, and community-based concert series.



Jerry L. Jenkins

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khatib704@yahoo.com

Jenkins is a performance artist of West African djembe drum ensemble, which involves the use of the traditional instruments, rhythms, and stories of the Malinke people of West Africa. During his career as a djembe player he expose/entertain children

and adults to West African drumming.



J-Wonn

Contact: Chris Mabry
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J-Wonn took the radio by storm with sounds of soul and blues his hit song "I Got This Record" which spread like wildfire. People would say that he is the savior of soul music, being so young his music has touched the ears of all ages. In 2014 securing awards

that range from "Best Song Of The Year" and "Best Entertainer Of The Year" (Jackson Music Awards) to "Best Upcoming Blues/Soul male Artist in Houston TX. J-Wonn says that it is a blessing that he has the attention of so many young people and says he looks forward to traveling the world showing youth that they too can love blues and soul music. He hopes to inspire youth and show the world a new culture of music. He has had the honor of producing and writing songs for some of the best, including writing and co-producing and album for the legendary Lenny Williams called "Hooked On You."



Lane Chapel Quintet

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The Lane Chapel C.M.E. Male quintet was first

organized in the fall of 1976 at the Lane Chapel Christian Episcopal Church located in Tupelo, MS. Charles Richardson organized the Quintet after his years as a member of Rust College A' Cappella choir, Rust College male Quintet, Sextet and mixed ensemble. The group's style of music is Gospel A' Capella. They have performed in churches around the country. They have also made appearances at the Oxford Folk Festival, St. Jude Radiothon, Mississippi Arts Commission Folk Music Festival, Mississippi Press Association, 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans, national Television on the Bobby Jones Gospel Hour. They were the opening act for BeBe and CeCe Winans, The Williams Brothers and the Mississippi Mass Choir. In addition, they have performed for a host of civic organizations such as the Regional Rehabilitation Radio-Telethon and the Mississippi Main Street Association. Recently the group was in a documentary record for an internationally acclaimed classical music vocalist, Helmut Lotti. He invited the group to take part in a 35-stop European Tour.



Janese Lewis

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facebook.com/ TheMezzo

Lewis has been a featured soloist in locally as well as around the world. She began

singing in church at a very young age and received Classical training in voice and music from Jackson State University. A National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Competition Winner, Lewis has developed a presentation of music that includes arias from opera and oratorio, spirituals, musical theater and jazz. Lewis has the type of voice that sends waves of bliss up your spine.

Through master classes and presentations she gives a knowledgeable, historical account of opera and spiritual backstories, African-American singers, and how to sing in your best voice. Her Mississippi roots run deep with her Mom being born in Hazlehurst and family in many parts of the state. Janese welcomes collaborative works and new music commissions.



Walt Littleton

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http://www.panmanmusic.com

Spice up your next event with the cool, island sounds of Walt "The Pan Man" Littleton and The Lost Shakers of Salt. Walt "The Pan Man" Littleton and The Lost Shakers of Salt is East Mississippi's first "trop rock" and steel drum band. If you are looking for something to really set that tropical island mood, look no further. We have something for every occasion and budget: give your wedding reception some atmosphere or your event some excitement. Performances range from light instrumental background music to upbeat songs that you can sing along and dance to and are

always the perfect volume for your event. Shows consist of Walt on steel drum and vocals while accompanied by high-quality, sequenced backing tracks for that full band sound. Depending on your event and budget, consider adding the rest of the band, The Lost Shakers of Salt, and make it a real party. Joining Walt in The Lost Shakers of Salt are South Mississippi blues artist, Wes Lee, on guitar and vocals, and Stan Geiger on percussion. Music includes calypso and soca classics, rock, pop, reggae, blues, country, and of course, lots of Jimmy Buffett favorites.



Amy Lott
806 Maple Avenue
Philadelphia, MS 39350
www.amylottmusic.com
amy@amylottmusic.com

Lott is a multi-instrumentalist, singer/sonwriter whose style and versatility encompasses many genres of music. With vocals, clarinet, flute, accordion, and piano in her musical

tool belt, she can perform most musical events either solo, or with full band accompaniment. She plays for orchestras, churches, restaurants, clubs, festivals, weddings, and schools. With the ability to recreate music from classical to blues, she can offer something to people of all ages.



Nellie Mack
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<https://www.facebook.com/nellie.mack>

Nellie McInnis (Nellie Mack) is a professional bass player who leads her own band The Nellie Mack Project and a Gospel group Soft Wind. She is also a freelance player for other bands and events. She has opened shows

and performed with numerous well known and national acts and has toured internationally. She leads workshops for gifted and physically challenged students and presents a workshop to youth and preschoolers entitled "Catch Them While They're Young." She also leads Blues In The School Programs for elementary through high school as well as workshops for community colleges and civic organizations. She was honored with an award by the National Committee For The Arts with the Handicapped and has received numerous other awards and recognitions.



Elaine Maisel
Bassoon and Contrabassoon
3932 N. State Street
Jackson, MS 39206
662/722-2776

Maisel is a bassoonist and contrabassoonist, playing professionally with orchestras throughout Mississippi. She is the Carnegie Hall Link Up Coordinator for the Mississippi Arts

Commission. As part of the Link Up program, she is available to play and teach recorder in school settings, or as a part of historical Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque ensemble. Elaine is available to give presentations, performances and workshops that incorporate double reeds, recorder, and interdisciplinary

connections through music. She is also a certified t'ai chi chih instructor, teaching movement to musicians and non-musicians to improve coordination, stage presence, mental focus, and improved performance.



Randy Mapes
Music Department
Hinds Community College
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Mapes, Saxophonist and Woodwind Specialist, has a performance background on all five major woodwind instruments (saxophone, oboe, clarinet, flute and bassoon). His repertoire contains works from both the "Classical" and "Popular" idioms. Mr. Mapes can perform a wide variety of programs including; a solo saxophone recital, perform as soloist with a band or orchestra, or present a demonstration recital featuring all five major woodwind instruments. He offers master classes and workshops for all levels of woodwind students. Master classes and workshops can cover subjects such as pedagogical techniques, literature, equipment, and performance techniques on one or more members of the woodwind family. One of his performance goals is to promote music education and music appreciation throughout the general public. Another is to provide the audience an opportunity to learn about the history, literature and workings of woodwind instruments.



Jason Mathena DMA
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Mathena is in his third year as Instructor of Music and Assistant Band Director at Southwest Mississippi Community College. In addition to his teaching duties, Mathena maintains a rigorous performance schedule as a member of the Mississippi Symphony, Gulf Coast Symphony, and Meridian Symphony. He has many years of experience on vibraphone and drum set in many different professional settings, such as rock bands, jazz bands, and musicals, and currently freelances in that capacity in central and south Mississippi. Besides ensemble playing, he has presented numerous recitals both academic and public and has also performed as soloist with various ensembles. Mathena holds a DMA in Percussion Performance and Pedagogy with secondary emphases in music theory and music history from the University of Southern Mississippi, MM in Percussion Performance from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, and BME in Music Education from Auburn University. His primary instructors have included John Wooton, Jeff Prosperie, She-e Wu, Troy Breaux, Greg Byrne, Harrell Bosarge, Bud Berthold, Glenn Carter, and Kent Morrow. As a solo artist, Mathena offers mainly mallet percussion solo recitals on vibraphone and marimba and many educational programs focusing on beginning percussion, mallet percussion, and improvisation. His two groups, The Vibe Doctors and The Plus 1 Jazz Trio, offer a variety of jazz and popular music for any occasion, social or otherwise.



Mississippi Symphony Orchestra

P.O. Box 2052
Jackson, MS 39225-2052
601.960.1565
www.msorchestra.com

As the largest professional performing arts organization in the state, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra performs for more than 75,000 Mississippians each year at more than 120 concerts statewide. Many of our Bravo and Pops Series concerts are performed on our home stage in Thalia Mara Hall, while the Chamber Series is performed in intimate venues throughout Jackson. Special events and the popular Pepsi Pops at Old Trace Park on the Ross Barnett Reservoir are also a regular part of the season. The MSO tours statewide as a full orchestra, a chamber orchestra, and as one of three resident ensembles—the Woodwind Quintet, the Brass Quintet and the String Quartet. Annual and bi-annual visits by the MSO to cities around the state include Vicksburg, Pascagoula, McComb, Greenville, Cleveland and Columbus.



Ronald V. Myers

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Minister, physician and jazz musician, Rev. Ronald V. Myers, Sr. works to keep

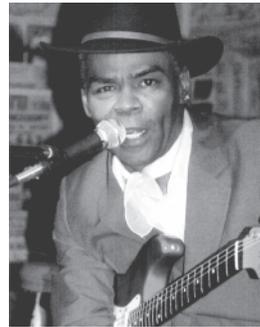
Mississippi's jazz legacy alive in the Mississippi Delta. He serves as the Artistic Director for the Mississippi Jazz and Heritage Program, working to organize a number of festivals and performances that focus on the state's contributions to jazz.



Baba Asante Nalls

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ifa-djembefola.org
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Baba Asante Nalls is a Djembefola (Master Drummer) of the Mali tradition, school of Abdouli Diakite. He learned traditional Mali rhythms, songs, dance and folklore from several international master drummers, including Chief Hawthorne Bey, master drummer for the Katherine Dunham Dance Theatre, Ladje Camara, lead drummer for the National Ballet du Senegal, Mor Thiam from Senegal, Adama Drame from Ivory Coast, Papa Abdouli Camara, choreographer and folkloric for the National Ballet du Senegal, and Fouday Musa Suso from Senegal. He worked as an independent artist specializing in West African drum music, technique, tradition, and folklore for the Muntu Dance Theatre, the Alyo Children's Dance Theatre, Sun Drummer, Ballet Jiki, and Alla Lakke, all of Chicago. His style does not leave his audience as passive watchers, but entices them into the performance. Through their participation in the rhythms, dance, songs, and folklore, his audience is lured into Malinke culture of West Africa. His mission is to keep the rich culture of the djembe drum family alive, and he brings a wealth of knowledge into Mississippi. He is available for lectures, demonstrations, workshops, classes, personal lessons & performances.



Bill "Howl-n-Madd" Perry

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Perry writes and performs original music, producing CDs which are played through-out the world. He performs in clubs, festivals, and for private parties. He performs with his full band and also as a solo acoustic performer. He also does blues education workshops, having worked with B.B. King at his workshop at Mississippi Valley State University. He was cast in scenes with Cuba Gooding, Jr. in the movie Way of War. He has been hired as a musician and actor for a segment of the top-rated television series, Gene Simmons Family Jewels. Perry has been playing his music for over 40 years. He has played in festivals and in clubs all over the country, and internationally with his band. He is accustomed to performing for a small group or in front of thousands.



Theresa Sanchez

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Sanchez pursues a career as a piano soloist and collaborative musician. She has presented recitals worldwide and has been a soloist with the Mississippi

Symphony Orchestra, the Mississippi Wind Symphony, The University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and The Wind Ensemble. She is featured on the SouthArts online registry, Southern Artistry and has performed on radio stations nationwide. She offers programs of classical solo or collaborative piano. She is an accomplished accompanist for singers or instrumentalists, and frequently serves as an orchestral pianist.



Alphonso Sanders

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Sanders is the Chair of Fine Arts and Director of the B.B. King Recording Studio at Mississippi Valley State University. He received degrees in music from Mississippi Valley State University, Valdosta State University, and the University of Mississippi. Dr. Sanders has performed at many recognized festivals including the Netherlands North Sea Jazz Festival; Montreux Switzerland Jazz Festival; Lucerne Switzerland Blues Festival; Mobile Jazz Festival; Ontario Canada Southside Shuffle Festival; and many of the Delta Blues Festivals. He has performed with such artist as Bill "Howl-N-Madd" Perry, Mulgrew Miller, Jerry Jemmot, Rhonda Richmond, Cassandra Wilson, Paula West, Debra Brown, Bobby Rush, David Lee Durham, The Four Tops, and David "Honey Boy" Edwards among others. As a Fulbright Scholar, he studied abroad in China exploring Chinese music and visual arts. He is recipient of the 2010 MAC Folk Arts Fellowship; the 2011 Mississippi Humanities Award and is published in Big City Rhythm & Blues magazine 2011 (UK); the book

"Musicians Up and the Delta"; and "Down In The Woods" a documentary of the legendary bluesman Willie King. He is also an award winner in the 2009 and 2010 International Blues Challenge and was selected by the Delta Blues Society as the 2013 Blues Musician of the Year. His most recent recording projects are "Mississippi Influences" and "Twice As Nice". For the past 30 years as a musician, he has been involved in music composition and songwriting, covering various styles of jazz, blues, folk, gospel, and country and is currently involved with the HWY 80 Songwriters Festival, Meridian, MS as a facilitator and performer. He often performs as quest artist and bandleader with the "Yalobushwackers" on Thacker Mountain Radio and is the founder and host of First Thursday's Jazz/Blues Night at the B.B. King Museum. orchestral pianist.



Alan Sibley
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Alan Sibley is a talented singer and bluegrass musician. He plays mandolin, guitar, banjo, fiddle and bass. His band, Alan Sibley and the Magnolia Ramblers, perform bluegrass and bluegrass gospel at festivals, concerts, churches, schools and many other places.



Rosângela Yazbec Sebba

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Rosângela Yazbec Sebba is a Brazilian pianist who combines an active concert and teaching schedule, and is noted for her lecture-recitals and research in Brazilian music. She has performed, given lectures and master classes in the United States as

well as Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Portugal and England. As a sought-after chamber musician she has accompanied master classes and concerts of renowned artists. She has written articles and book reviews for magazines and journals in Brazil, United States and England. Dr. Sebba is the founder and coordinator of the MSU Piano Pre-College Program and MSU Piano Retreat where she currently is a Professor of Music. During fall of 2008 she moved to New York City where she took classes at Juilliard School and performed at David Dubal's lecture at the Cervantes Institute which was broadcasted live on WQXR. She is on the Mississippi Music Teachers Association board committee as the VP for Collegiate and National Competitions. Her two CDs, entitled "Sonata and Sonatinas by M. Camargo Guarnieri," released never recorded music through a Brazilian non-profit organization and MSU. Dr. Sebba welcomes the opportunity to serve as soloist, collaborative pianist and to give master classes, lectures and lectures/recitals to all types of audiences.



Joe Shelton

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Big Joe is a blues singer, songwriter, harmonica, and guitar player from Columbus. He is a 2012 Blues Music Award Nominee. He has toured the world, and is a performer/ lecturer. He performs solo or with a full band at festivals and events.



**Mr. Sipp –
 "The Mississippi Blues Child"**

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 601-209-8697

Mr. Sipp has over 125 credits to his name for writing, playing and producing. He is currently the winner of the 2014 International Blues Challenge and released his first blues album in May 2013, "It's My Guitar" which is now being played on Sirius XM and Pandora. In 2010, he traveled to Russia with The Williams Brothers to participate in the American Music Abroad Workshop bringing our music, our heritage to other countries which he is planning to do again. This workshop teaches young children as well as adults where the different genres of music actually derived from. There is also a workshop teaching them about different instruments and their sounds. His desire is to take blues to the schools so that the current generations will know where the blues came from and how and what we need to do in order to keep it alive. He wants to teach students the different types of guitars, teach them simple cords and show them how to maintain the strings. Within the workshop he wants to be able to play different types of blues and songs for the students.



Jarekus Singleton

www.jarekus.com
 www.hittheroadentertainment.com
 Contact: Peggy Brown 601/613-7377

Alligator label recording artist Jarekus Singleton is a musical trailblazer with a bold vision for the future of the blues. In his songwriting he melds hip-hop wordplay, rock energy and R&B grooves with contemporary and traditional blues, turning audiences of all ages into devoted fans. Jarekus Singleton has been tearing up clubs and festivals across the US and Canada including the Chicago Blues Festival, the Festival International du Blues, Mont Tremblant, Quebec and festivals in Florida, California, Maine, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, Texas, Colorado, Oregon, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina and many more. Singleton was named a "star on the rise" by Blues & Rhythm magazine in the UK. Guitar Center named him the 2011 King of the Blues in Mississippi. He received the Jackson Music Award for 2012 Blues Artist of the Year and for 2013 Local Artist of the Year. The Jackson Free Press named him the 2013 Best Local Blues Artist and Best R&B Artist for 2014. Living Blues Magazine praised Singleton for his "emotional intensity," saying he "blends styles and elements across genres and generations." Jarekus also enjoys participating in and leading music and Blues workshops for elementary and junior high students.



**The Trustys of
Davo Crossing**
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Performing together since 1997, this awarded duo consists of the husband and wife team of Danny and Linda Trusty. A guitar player for 58 years, Danny also plays mandolin, claw-hammer banjo, fiddle, and several other instruments. Linda plays up-right bass and guitar. Both sing lead and harmony vocals and often switch parts on

many of their songs. They have been honored by The Magnolia State Bluegrass Association, Danny as "Guitar Player of the Year" for 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2013 and Linda as "Female Vocalist of the Year" for 2010. They play acoustically in the styles of old-time, blues, bluegrass, gospel, country, and have released four CDs. The Trustys create their own musical arrangements and have a unique style that is popular and well received at banquets, corporate gatherings, bluegrass festivals, fairs, churches, and other venues in The Southeastern United States.



Tricia Walker
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Walker is a singer and songwriter whose songs are steeped in the passion, pain and grace of the American South. Born and raised in Mississippi, Walker has become one of the clearest voices of her

own time and place. Her music has been recorded by Faith Hill, Patty Loveless and Alison Krauss, whose performance of Tricia's "Looking in the Eyes of Love" earned a Grammy. Tricia's one-woman show, "The Heart of Dixie," is a multimedia presentation of original songs and stories that offers the personal reflections of a white Southerner growing up in small-town (Fayette) Mississippi in the 1960s during the Civil Rights Movement. A recording artist herself, Tricia's songs thoughtfully capture the songwriter's view of the South with well-placed lyrics and music reflecting her folk, R&B and storytelling influences. She also offers acoustic performances and songwriting workshops. Walker offers an entertaining slice of her places and times, delivered with a beautiful voice, strong musicianship and the ease of a veteran entertainer.



Damein Wash
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Damein Wash is a very active conductor, composer, performer and producer in the Oxford, Mississippi area and a graduate of University of Mississippi with a Bachelor's degree in Choral Music Education. Although he is a classically trained vocalist, gospel music has always been an integral part of his career. He has been leading and directing choirs there for twelve years and been the longtime director of music and pianist at East St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church in Abbeville. He taught five years in the public school system, four years as director of choral music at Oxford Middle School. After very successful years as a teacher, he took on a new challenge and began a career in music production under his own record label, Washboard Studio. He still, however, contributes to public school music as a clinician and adjudicator for festivals.



Leo "Bud" Welch
P.O. Box 321
Bruce, MS 38916
(901) 289-0741-Manager Vencie Varnado

Welch performs with his drummer Dixie Street. They present an up-tempo Traditional Mississippi Gospel and Blues singing and storytelling show. Leo does not limit himself to a particular style or sound, it is often said by Leo that he does it the Leo Bud Welch way. This

includes audience participation, supreme guitar picking and a versatile voice that must be heard to truly appreciate. Dixie provides a never ending rhythmic drum beat that enhance Leo's every move and sound.



Bobby Whalen
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Born in Indianola, MS in 1944, Whalen literally grew up with the famed Club Ebony at his back door. His first musical instrument was the drums, piecing together a drum kit from oil cans and other found objects. He later joined the Gentry High School band and soon went out on his own, leading the Teen Kings, a local rock and blues band. Known mostly today for his work on bass and guitar, Bobby Whalen is a multi-instrumentalist who is also widely recognized for his work as a painter and muralist. Bobby Whalen and the Ladies Choice band have performed throughout the region, sharing the stage with the likes of B.B. King, Son Thomas, Sam Myers and the Staple Singers. Bobby is available to perform as a solo artist, as well as with a full band. He plays at museums, festivals, private parties, business functions and clubs.



Steve Wilkerson

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Wilkerson was born and raised in Kemper County, Mississippi on his family's farm, where raising soybeans, cattle, and hogs taught him a thing or two about Mississippi mud. After 20 years of playing piano, guitar and organ in touring bands, he

started writing songs in 2008. His debut album, "Made in Mississippi", is a journey through the mind and times of a native in the state that is the cradle of American music. He's been featured throughout the South, including the largest blues festival in the world, King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, Arkansas. His record is available on iTunes, Spotify, and anywhere you can find music online.



McKinney "The Blues Man" Williams

"WorkHorse" Williams Jr., Monsta Entertainment LLC
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monstatrbe@gmail.com

McKinney "The BluesMan" Williams Sr. is a Mississippi boy who grew up in Lexington, where his daddy taught him how to play the guitar. It was here, in the Mississippi

Delta, that his musical journey began; singing gospel in the church with his family. During his 35 year career as a gospel artist, he wrote and composed his first album, Stay Focused, in 1991 with his family gospel group "The Williams Singers." The album was a local success and sold over 11,000 copies. Over the years, he continued to sing, and later formed a gospel group with his children affectionately named "Pop and Them Chillin."

Growing up in musical family meant that he was always surrounded by different forms of music. Though he performed as a gospel singer for 35 years, the blues was in his heart. Heavily influenced by legendary blues men like Elmore James and Howling Wolf, McKinney branched off from gospel and launched his solo career as a Blues singer calling himself "Mr. Entertainer, The BluesMan." He refers to his style "Front Porch Blues" – "You know the kind of Blues that people played on their front porches at the end of the day". In 2011, "The BluesMan" recorded his first song, titled "So Long Baby".



RESOURCES

The Mississippi Visual Arts Directory is a regularly updated visual arts resource for the state of Mississippi. Included on this website are visual artists, craftspeople, galleries, museums, and cultural centers. The Mississippi Arts Commission created the site and provides a free listing as a courtesy to Mississippi-based artists and arts organizations. To find out more, visit www.msvisualarts.org.

A project of the Mississippi Arts Commission, Mississippi Folklife re-imagines its earlier print publication established in 1927 by the Mississippi Folklore Society, as a digital journal featuring original writing and documentary work focused on modern and present-day folklife and cultural heritage throughout the state, with new articles, interviews, photo essays, and films anchored by three core areas: Music, Custom, and Visual Arts.

www.mississippifolklife.org

www.facebook.com/mississippifolklife

Twitter: @msfolklife

Instagram: @mississippifolklife

STAY CONNECTED

To The Mississippi Arts Commission Through Social Media!

Facebook: www.facebook.com

Mississippi Arts Commission and Whole Schools Initiative

Twitter: www.twitter.com/msarts

YouTube: www.youtube.com/themsartscomm

Mississippi is home to a wide range of traditional art forms and distinct community cultural events. The music, crafts, and other traditions help the state's resident to pass on their beliefs craft and skill to younger new generations and reinforce their community's shared identity. The Mississippi Folklife Directory website is part of the Mississippi Arts Commission's ongoing effort to increase awareness of the state's traditional arts and culture. To find out more, visit www.arts.ms.gov/folklife.

The Mississippi Arts Commission's Whole Schools Initiative, the state's first comprehensive arts education program, stresses that every child deserves to be taught in and through the arts, thus nurturing the imagination and creatively impacting life-long learning. The program uses the arts as a vehicle for promoting high-quality instruction and learning for students in all disciplines. To find out more about this innovative program, visit www.mswholeschools.org.

Being ArtsReady means preparedness, readiness and business continuity for you and your organization in the event of an emergency. It means backing up critical documents, communication and evacuation plans, and protecting your organization's assets. The Mississippi Arts Commission is proud to partner with SouthArts to encourage our arts community to engage in disaster planning by using the available resources on www.artsready.org.

