

Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame

A short History

Mississippi, Birthplace of America's Music (c) is our slogan.

Mission Statement - Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame

The mission of the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame is to inform, educate, and entertain the public about Mississippi's unique and unusual music history. That history includes the birth of popular music in America. In addition, the Hall of Fame highlights the contributions of Mississippi's many successful musicians of all genres throughout the state's history.

Our Slogan: *Mississippi, Birthplace of America's Music(c)*. The blues was born in the Delta; country music with the father of country music, Jimmie Rodgers; and rock-n- roll with Ike Turner, Jackie Brenston and Blind Roosevelt Graves All forms of American music came from one of these roots.

In 1995, Dr. Jim Brewer assembled a group of arts and music experts to discuss creating a music hall of fame. They all agreed it should be done. Since then, we have performed many inductions, conducted several talent searches, held many music industry seminars, produced two CDs, a book, a blues map, and a music sites map. Attraction for these activities has come from as far away as Great Britain, Canada, and Mexico, not to mention from all across the United States. Several magazines and newspapers including Rolling Stone magazine, have favorably mentioned the organization in their publications.

At present, we do not have a brick-and-mortar home, but we are always on the lookout and open to ideas for a permanent home. Much of our memorabilia can be viewed at the Mississippi Music Museum in Crystal Spring, Mississippi.

Our hope is to showcase the wide range of Mississippi music and musicians from all genres with the great and unique story each one has to tell.

Inductions

After several very successful induction ceremonies, the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame planned an even larger event built on the theme, Mississippi, Birthplace of America's Music. This three-day ceremony took place in Vicksburg in 2007 and included four concerts. Over 100 Mississippi artists performed during that time. In the past, entertainment lineup has included greats such as Marty Stuart, James Blackwood, Mississippi Mass Choir, Guy Hovis, Nanette Workman, the Jackson Southernaires, the Canton Spirituals, Hank Cochran, and the "original" Rolling Stones. Mrs. Pat Fordice, former first lady of Mississippi, also took part in the program. The Jackson State Jazz Ensemble with Dr. Russell Thomas and the USM Jazz Ensemble directed by Larry Panella have entertained and served as house bands. The inductions have even caught the attention of the national press, including Rolling Stone and Guitar magazines.

Leontyne Price said of her induction at the first ceremony, "This award is made more important by the fact that it is from home, where my career started."

Price's brother, General George Price, said, "The event was superb in every way."

James Blackwood said, "I felt highly honored to be allowed a part in the function. It was a great tribute to my deceased brothers and me."

The Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame is dedicated to honoring this state's great musical heritage and musicians. There is no end to the number of talented and successful Mississippi musicians.

Publications

Book

Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame - Legendary Musicians Whose Art Has Changed the World

This 176-page, illustrated book contains information on more than 200 great Mississippi musicians. All musical genres are covered from gospel to country and classical to jazz. With cover notes from Leontyne Price, Pat Fordice, and James Blackwood, the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame book is filled with information about well-known as well as behind-the-scenes musicians with roots in Mississippi. It contains documentation of the musicians from Mississippi

whose art has changed the world.

Legendary Musicians Whose Art Has Changed the World CD

In addition to the book, a CD was recorded that offers a sampling of the state's great musical heritage.

Artists include:

Charlie Patton

Jimmie Rodgers

Leake County Revelers

James Blackwood and the Blackwood Brothers

International Sweethearts of Swing

Skeets McWilliams

Mundell Lowe and Lloyd Wells

Little Milton

Dee Barton

Mississippi Mass Choir

Quail Ridge Press published the book, and Malaco Records produced the CD for the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame.

Free Teachers' Guides Help Teach About Mississippi Music and Musicians

Supplemental teachers' guides are available for the fourth and ninth grades. The guides show in game format how to use the book, map, and CD to teach students about their heritage of Mississippi music. The guides have been used in other grades as high as junior college. Approved by the Mississippi State Department of Education and partially funded by the Mississippi Arts Commission, the guides can also be downloaded from the Hall of Fame's site at www.msmusic.org.

These materials have been used in more than 60 schools across the state.

Contact Information

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The Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame is a 501-c-3 (non-profit) corporation and charity

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