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Wadesboro's Blind Boy Fuller to be Inducted in NC Music Hall of Fame

The North Carolina Music Hall of Fame will celebrate its 10th Annual induction with seven new inductees being inducted into its Hall of Fame this fall. The induction ceremony will take place on Thursday, October 18 in Kannapolis, NC. Those being inducted are:

- John Tesh – Pianist, composer, singer, and outstanding national broadcaster who studied at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. John's Power of Love album was Grammy nominated in 2003 for "Best Pop Instrumental Album". John has six music Emmys, two Grammy nominations, three gold records, had seven public television specials and 8 million records sold.

- Chris Daughtry – 2006 American Idol contestant from Roanoke Rapids, NC. His chart topping song "It's Not Over", performed by his rock band Daughtry, was nominated for "Best Rock Song and Best Rock Performance" by a Duo or Group with Vocal at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards.

- Dolphus Ramseur – Record Executive and founder of Ramseur Records, an independent record label based in North Carolina. Dolphus is responsible for successful artists such as The Avett Brothers and Steep Canyon Rangers. Dolphus was born and raised in Concord, NC.

- Luther Barnes – Stellar Award winning and Grammy nominated gospel singer, songwriter and producer. Barnes was born in Rocky Mount, NC where he currently pastors the Restoration Worship Center.

- Calvin Richardson – R&B/Soul singer-songwriter and producer from Monroe, NC. Calvin has received multiple Grammy nominations.

- The Hoppers – GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame members from Madison, NC. The Hoppers have been singing to global audiences for over 60 years with appearances ranging from presidential religious inaugural ceremonies and New York's Carnegie Hall to singing conventions and church platforms. They have won over 50 awards and have eight number one songs along with multiple top 5 songs.

- Blind Boy Fuller – Piedmont Blues guitarist famed for his fingerpicking style of the 1930's. Fuller was born in Wadesboro, NC.

The Induction Ceremony is open to the public and tickets are expected to go on sale late Spring. The red carpet event will commemorate each inductee and showcase the important contributions they have made to American Music. The 2018 Inductions will mark the major milestone of the organization's 10th annual ceremony since relocating to Kannapolis.

For more information visit northcarolinamusichalloffame.org.

Here is a reprint of an article written by Steve Bailey that The Express published in February 2014 about Blind Boy Fuller:

Blind Boy Fuller was born Fulton Allen in Ansonville in July of 1905. He was one of 16 children born to Calvin and Mary Jane Hyatt Allen. He probably grew up around Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on the Ansonville-Polkton Road where some of his relatives are buried.

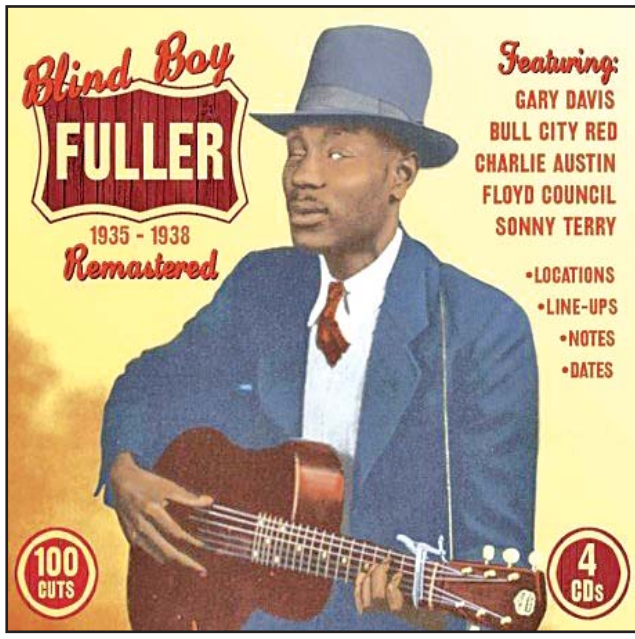
Fuller was always surrounded by music, and he learned to play the guitar with the help of an older brother or sister. His grandparents were Sidney and Elizabeth Allen, and Washington and Annie Hyatt. The family was still living in Ansonville in 1910, but had moved to Rockingham by 1917. Two of his brothers were married in February and March of 1917 at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Blind Boy Fuller married Cora Martin on September 10, 1927, in Marlboro County, SC when he was 22 years old and Cora was 14 years old. The marriage license stated they were residents of Rockingham. During this time his eyesight started to fail him, caused by a congenital disease. Because of the blindness he became dependant upon his guitar playing to make a living, realizing that performing was one of the few alternatives that was available to the working class blind in the 1920's. By the time he and his wife had moved to Durham in 1929 he was entirely dependent on his guitar playing that helped to supplement the meager wages his wife earned as a domestic servant. Durham had an abundance of African American middle class with African American owned banks, insurance companies, funeral homes and a host of other businesses. This contributed to a vibrant African American urban life.

Recognizing the unique opportunities that Durham had to offer to musicians who were forced to rely on the public for support, he set out to improve the mastery of the guitar. As his playing improved he became a favorite at local house parties.

In 1935 his musical talents caught the ear of James Long, the white manager of Durham's United Dollar Store who was an informal agent of the American Record Corporation (ARC). Sensing that Fulton's versatile guitar playing, witty lyrics and robust singing could lead to a successful recording career, Long arranged for Fulton to travel to ARC's New York studios for a recording session. ARC released all twelve songs recorded at that session and soon called him back into the studio.

Over the next five years Fulton, who appeared on record as "Blind Boy Fuller," recorded more than 125 titles, all of which were released. Those recordings made him one of the most popular blues artists of all time. His guitar style came to define the blues sound of the southeastern states. Blind Boy Fuller died from a severe bladder infection on February 13, 1941 at his home in Durham, and he was buried at Durham's Grove Hill Cemetery.



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April 14-15, 2018 Ninth Annual Event

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SHOW HOURS

Friday, April 13: Setup only
Saturday, April 14: 9:00AM – 5:00PM
Sunday, April 15: 9:00AM – 4:00PM

ADMISSION

ADULTS: Nonperishable food items to be donated to Loaves and Fishes
KIDS get in FREE

BICYCLE GIVEAWAY

Five drawings for bicycles and tricycles.

Saturday drawings: 12:00, 2:00, and 4:00

Sunday drawings: 1:00 and 3:00

(Both child and their parent must be present to win)

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For more information, contact us at www.unioncountytractorsnc.com or call Larry Thomas at 704-764-3007 or Jim Nolen at 704-272-7502

Foster Parent Support Group Meets

Meetings of the Foster Parent Support Group are held the second Thursday of the month, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Richmond County Department of Social Services, located at 125 Caroline Street in Rockingham. Refreshments and resources are provided for free.

If you would like to attend, please contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769 or by email at connections-fsp@gmail.com for more information.



August 8, 1926 – February 18, 2018

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly on a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.

From the family of Mary P. McLendon