

**Rev. Robert Jones, Sr.
Storyteller and Musician**

Rev. Robert Jones, Sr. is an inspirational storyteller and musician celebrating the history, humor and power of American Roots music. His deep love for traditional African American and American traditional music is shared in live performances that interweave timeless stories with original and traditional songs. For more than twenty-five years Robert has entertained and educated audiences of all ages in schools, colleges, libraries, union halls, prisons, churches and civil rights organizations. At the heart of his message is the belief that our cultural diversity tells a story that should celebrate, not just tolerate. Acclaimed photographer James Fraher writes about Robert: *“Perhaps the world’s most highly educated blues musician, an ordained minister, a longtime DJ, and a living encyclopedia of blues history, the Reverend Robert Jones is comfortable among juke joint loud talkers, fancy-hatted church ladies, and PhDs alike.”*

Rev. Robert Jones makes his home in Detroit while performing throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. An award-winning multi-instrumentalist, he is accomplished at guitar, harmonica, mandolin, banjo and fiddle. He has recorded six albums of original and tradition songs. Robert is the former host of the award-winning radio programs “Blues from the Lowlands” and “Deep River” broadcast on Detroit Public Radio’s WDET-FM Detroit. And he has taught at music history courses at Wayne State University in Detroit. As an ordained minister and a Baptist pastor, he has an unwavering faith the cultural importance of sacred and traditional American roots music. In addition to his solo performances, he often collaborates musically with his wife, Sister Bernice Jones.

RECENT PERFORMANCES AND RESIDENCIES

African American Culture Through Artists Eyes, Canton Theater, Canton, MI
London Blues Society, London, ON, Canada
International Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, TN
Swannanoa Traditional Song Festival, Swannanoa, NC
RaceBridges Diversity Program, Chicago, IL
Jorma Kaukonen’s Fur Peace Ranch, Pomeroy, OH
Jeff Daniels and Friends, Main Theater, Ann Arbor, MI.
Monroe County Library System Black History Month Blues Series, Monroe, MI
Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, “Emancipation Proclamation National Tour”, Dearborn, MI
Detroit Historical Museum
University of Michigan Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, Ann Arbor, MI
Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, “Day of Courage Celebration”, Dearborn, MI.

Awards & Recognitions

Detroit Music Award, 2002 and 2003 (Outstanding Recording and Songwriting).

"Keeping Blues Alive Award," recognized nationally by the Blues Foundation for work as a Blues Educator, 2007.

Monroe County Michigan Library System, Certificate of Appreciation for 25 Years of Service for Monroe's Annual Black History Month Blues Series, 2012

Teller In Residence, National Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, TN, 2010 and 2013

Featured Storyteller at National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN, 2009 and 2013

TESTIMONIALS

Rev Jones had all the children captivated, and they all were dancing and using rhythm. It was absolutely amazing watching heads moving, toes tapping, and hands clapping; there wasn't a still body in the room.

Kelly Jo Stoneburner

Roosevelt Boys & Girls Clubs

Site Coordinator

Davenport, IA 52802

Robert you are a fabulous assembly presenter/musician. You had the perfect blend of fabulous music and historical message. It fits beautifully with the 8th grade social studies benchmarks.

Kathleen Gut

Howell Public Schools

Man, you got Son House in your pocket!

Legendary Blues performer, the late Robert "Junior" Lockwood

"Perhaps the world's most highly educated blues musician, an ordained minister, a longtime DJ, and a living encyclopedia of blues history, the Reverend Robert Jones is comfortable among juke joint loud talkers, fancy-hatted church ladies, and PhDs alike."

James Fraher,

Award winning Blues Photographer and Musician