

Rev. Robert Bernard Jones, Sr.

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QUALIFICATIONS

Musician and Music Educator with a deep love for traditional African American and American traditional folk music ▪ Twenty years of experience in performances and educational presentations ▪ Multi-instrumentalist and vocalist with skills in various regional and historical guitar styles, harmonica, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, quills, and bones ▪ Award winning songwriter ▪ Creator of the American Roots Music In Education (A.R.M. I. E.) presented to well over 250,000 students of all ages in Michigan and around the country ▪ Storyteller with training and over ten years of experience in educational process drama and stage acting ▪ Often collaborate with other artists and performers including wife, Sister Bernice Jones, singer-songwriter Matt Watroba and poet-performer M. L. Liebler ·Graphic artist with an emphasis on dry media (pencil, pastel chalk and charcoal) with works displayed at various institutions ▪ After more than twenty years as a blues musician and historian, the study and showcasing of the sacred side of American Roots Music has become a primary area of interest. As an ordained minister and a Baptist pastor, the importance of sharing the cultural importance of sacred music has become paramount.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Born October 2, 1956 in Detroit, MI. An only child raised by a single mother and maternal grandmother in Detroit and educated in Detroit Public Schools. Married for 22 years to Bernice Jones, Office Administrator, DTE Energy. Two children; son, Robert, II, (age 24) currently attending Schoolcraft College and daughter, Arnesia, (age 21), currently attending Wayne State University.

EDUCATION

· 1979 Bachelor of Arts Degree, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Major in English, Minor in Near Eastern Studies · 1985 Completed concentrated training in Family and Substance Abuse Counseling, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI · 1996-2003 Received Special Training in Educational Drama, Storyliving Program, Detroit Historical Museum · 2004-2005 One of thirty Baptist Pastors invited to participate in a national seminar on Worship and Music in the Black Church, at American Baptist College in Nashville, TN.

PERFORMANCES

Has Opened For

B. B. King, Bonnie Raitt, The Blind Boys of Alabama, Taj Mahal, Dave Van Ronk, Junior Wells, Albert Collins, Carl Perkins, Brownie McGhee, Son Seals, Ronnie Earl, Dr. John, Buddy Guy, Leon Russell, Charlie Musselwhite, Koko Taylor, Robert Lockwood, Jr., John Lee Hooker, The Persuasions, Doc Watson and others.

Has Performed With

John Hammond, The Holmes Brothers, Hubert Sumlin, Mike Seeger, John Cephas, Phil Wiggins, Jeff Daniels, Keb Mo', Peter "Madcat" Ruth, Jorma Kaukonen, G. E. Smith, Marie Knight, Rory Block, David Bromberg, Howard Armstrong, Napoleon "Nappy" Brown, Roy Book Binder, Patty Larkin, Chris Smither, Bob Franke, Guy Davis, Pinetop Perkins, Saffire, Joel Mabus, Rich Del Grosso, Arlo Guthrie, Sarah Lee Guthrie, Sparky Rucker, Ben Wiley Payton, Trina Hamlin, Paul Geremia, Josh White, Jr. Matt Watroba, Faruq Z. Bey, M.L. Liebler, John Sinclair and Willie Dixon.

RECORDINGS

Guitar Evangelists, with Sister Bernice Jones, Rojo Records, 2010 · Gasoline, The Detroit Legacy Sessions, with M. L. Liebler and Faruq Z. Bey, Detroit Radio Co., 2009 · At The Crossroads, Original Songs and Holy Blues, Rojo Records, 2007 · The Time Of The Preacher, Holy Blues and Spirituals, with Sister Bernice Jones, Rojo Records, 2005 · In The Tradition, Rojo Records, 2002 · A Portrait In Blues, Acoustic Blues, Folk and Spirituals, Rojo Records, 2000 · Blues From The Lowlands, Rojo Records,

1997

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2007 *Keeping The Blues Alive Award (KBA), Educator of the Year*, from the Blues Foundation, Memphis, TN · 2007 Photographed (Cover) and featured in “The Blues”, Photographs by James Fraher, a calendar of blues photography, sold nationally · 2003 *Detroit Music Award, Outstanding Blues/R&B Songwriter* · 2003 *Detroit Music Award, Outstanding Blues/R&B Recording “In The Tradition”* · 2002 *Detroit Music Award, Outstanding Blues Writer* · 2001 *Distinguished Service Award, Michigan Artist Of The Year* · 2000, Michigan Council For Arts, History and Humanities · 2000, WXYZ-TV, Channel 7, Detroit, March, “Places In The Heart”, recognized for work in schools and community.

SAMPLE OF PERFORMANCES and TOURS (Six years)

2013 Teller In Residence, International Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, TN · Performed with Playwright Bill Harris original piece, “Have Mercy”, Detroit, MI · Performer, Day of Courage, Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, MI · Featured Teller, National Storytelling Festival · **2012** Residency Mississippi Valley Blues Society, Davenport, IA · Performer and Teacher Centrum Blues Week, Port Townsend, WA · Teacher and Performer, Summer Acoustic Music Week, Geneva Point, NH · **2011** Performer and Featured Graphic Artist, African American Culture Through Artists Eyes, Canton Theater, Canton, MI · Residency, London Blues Society, London, ON, Canada · Cape Girardeau Storytelling Festival, Cape Girardeau, MO · Residency, International Storytelling Center, Jonesborough, TN · Teacher and Performer, Swannanoa Traditional Song Festival, Swannanoa, NC · Summer Acoustic Music Week, (SAMW), Geneva Point, NH · Performer, Midnight Cabaret, National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN. · **2010** Performer and Featured Graphic Artist, African American Culture Through Artists Eyes, Canton Theater, Canton, MI · ARMIE Residency, Mississippi Valley Blues Society, Davenport, IA · Featured Teller, RaceBridges Diversity Program, Chicago, IL, · Teacher and Performer, Blues Week Festival, Centrum, Port Townsend, WA · Teacher and Performer, Summer Acoustic Music Week, (SAMW), Geneva Point, NH · Performer, Mackinac Island Jazz Festival, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI · Cave Run Storytelling Festival, Cave Run, KY · Kathryn Windham’s Tale Tellin’ Festival, Selma, AL · Teacher and Performer, Jorma Kaukonen’s Fur Peace Ranch, Pomeroy, OH · Lower Brandywine Storytelling Festival, Wilmington, DE · Performer, Jeff Daniels and Friends, Main Theater, Ann Arbor, MI. · **2009** Featured Teller, International Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN. · Teacher and Performer, Swannanoa Traditional Song Festival, Swannanoa, NC · Residency with M. L. Liebler, Paterson Public Schools, Paterson Poetry Center, Paterson, NJ. · **2008** Old Songs Music Festival, Guilderland, NY · Port Townsend Blues Festival, Port Townsend, WA · **2007** Box Factory Art Gallery, St Joseph, MI · Harvest Blues Festival, Fredricton, New Brunswick, Canada · **2006** Stamford Art Center, Stamford, England · Village of Castor, England · MerleFest Music Festival, Wilkesboro, NC · Toledo Museum of Art Juneteenth Festival, Toledo, OH · Mississippi Valley Blues Festival, Davenport, IA

SAMPLE OF EDUCATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI: Has taught numerous classes as a member of Adjunct Faculty (1993-2008), including History of Blues Music (MUH-200), and American Popular Music--1840 to 1970 (MUH-1350). In addition has worked as a guest presenter for a number of Wayne State professors. Performed in the lead role of Bill Harris’ play, “Trick The Devil”, Hilberry Theater, 2001. **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI:** Presenter, 2004-present, Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration-Dr. Henry Meares, Coordinator. **University of Michigan, Dearborn, MI:** Several seminars on African American Music, including presentations for Dr. Deborah Smith-Pollard and the late Professor Kenn Cox. **Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI:** Performed multiple shows in period clothing playing blues and spirituals of the era during Greenfield Village Summer Celebration at the Mattox House, a Georgia farmhouse circa 1931 (1993-2007) Wrote and performed a one man presentation on “The Life and Times of Huddie Ledbetter, a.k.a. Leadbelly” (1996-98). **Detroit Historical Museum** 1993-Was recruited, trained and worked as a member of the Detroit Historical Museum’s “Storyliving” team, and served as Director of the “Storyliving” program from 2002 to 2004. **Monroe County Library System:** Serves as musical consultant and performer for the annual Black History Month Blues Series in Monroe, MI (1988 to present). Co-founded this award winning series with Tim McGorey and Bill Reiser as part of the Monroe County Library System’s Black History Month celebration.