



## Music News From Silver Swan Records

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### **Detroit Entertainers Aid Musicians Displaced by Katrina**

Some of Detroit's most popular and original entertainers joined forces on Sunday, October 2, to raise funds for musicians displaced by hurricane Katrina. Sheila Hale, Detroit jazz vocalist and organizer of the event, noted that "while many benefit concerts have been held of late to aid victims of the disaster, it's important to do something for the people who live and die by the region's entertainment trade – and whose livelihood, though legendary to the region, is currently non-existent!"

Hale organized the event by joining forces with the New Orleans Musicians Clinic and the Higher Ground Hurricane Relief Fund in an effort to directly aid musicians financially displaced by hurricane Katrina. Enlisting the support of many of Detroit's finest entertainers, Ms. Hale created "Music is My Life, and My Life has been Interrupted" held at the New Dodge Club of Hamtramck, Michigan.

Filling the MC duties for the event was keyboard master Philip (Phil) J. Hale. Meanwhile, Hamtramck Mayor Thomas Jankowski stopped in to say a few words of encouragement and the musical performers included blues giant Johnnie Bassett, Thornetta Davis, The Brakemen, Straightahead, Jazzhead, Philip J. Hale's Philharmonic Urban Progressive Jazz, and Ras Kente & the Take No Prisoners Posse.

Among the evening's highlights was a duet featuring Johnny Bassett and Rick Pinkerton (the Brakemen) performing "Blame it on the Weather" (a 2003 Milan & Pinkerton song, penned in Bassett's honor). The Brakemen concluded their set with "New Orleans, Grey Days."

According to Ms. Hale, the event was able to raise more than \$1,000 in monetary donations that will go directly to the displaced musicians of New Orleans.



Pictured left: (L to R) Johnnie Bassett, Brian Harris, Rick Pinkerton, "Blame it on the Weather;" Center photo: Jon Milan; Photo right: Milan with Scott Clauser, "The Brakemen."