

Booker T. Jones B3 for days



NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS — From his early days as a Stax Records session player and with the M.G.'s, to his resurgence, **Booker T. Jones** has remained an ambassador of Memphis soul music for nearly 50 years. A Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee and Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Booker visits MASS MoCA on **Saturday, July 22**, at **8pm**, for a night of *Green Onions*, soon-to-be-classics, and all your favorites.

Jones developed an interest in jazz as a young boy growing up in Memphis, Tennessee. A gig delivering newspapers led him to the front porch of pianist Phineas Newborn, where he would often listen to the jazz great practice piano. As a teenager, Jones immersed himself in the local music scene, sneaking

into local R&B nightclubs and becoming a regular at Satellite Record Shop and recording studio. It was through this connection that Jones teamed up with then-emerging (now-legendary) Stax Records to form their house band, Booker T. & the M.G.'s. A huge success during their time, Booker T. & the M.G.'s toured the U.K. and Europe and accompanied many artists including the legendary Otis Redding. A promising solo career relocated Jones to Los Angeles. He went on to record two albums with his then-wife, Priscilla Coolidge-Jones, while continuing to produce hits for other notable artists, including Bill Withers and Willie Nelson. In 1978, Jones released *Try and Love*, his first solo album, and continued recording, releasing two more records, *I Want You* in 1981, and *The Runaway* in 1989, while also collaborating with artists that included Neil Young and Ray Charles, among others. Booker T. & the M.G.'s were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1992.

In 2008, Jones teamed up with country-rock band Drive-By Truckers and Neil Young to release the album *Potato Hole*. Combining Young's signature reverb-heavy guitar with Jones' melodic riffs for undeniable grooves, the album received rave reviews. In 2011, Jones knocked out another collaboration, *The Road from Memphis*, with the hip-hop/soul group The Roots. The album revitalized soul music with brightened Memphis funk and a crooning voice, and as *Consequence of Sound* noted, "This kind of thing needs to happen more often." Both albums snagged Grammy Awards for Best Pop Instrumental Album. For his most recent solo album released in 2013, *Sound the Alarm*, Jones returned to where it all began, Stax Records, collaborating with a plethora of both new and established artists. The album features everything from contemporary R&B, courtesy of upcoming artists Mayer Hawthorne, Jay James, and Luke James, to the Texas blues styling of Gary Clark, Jr. A conglomeration of Jones's ventures as an artist, all stemming

from Stax Records, the album “resurrects Memphis sound” (*LA Times*) with innovative rhythmic collaborations.

Join us at MASS MoCA on **Saturday, July 22**, at **8pm**, for a soulful night with **Booker T. Jones** outdoors and under the stars. Lickety Split, MASS MoCA’s café, serves up crisp salads, hearty soups, and lip-smacking pub fare. A full bar serves Bright Ideas Brewing beers and Berkshire Mountain Distillery spirits. Tickets are \$16 for students, \$20 in advance, \$26 day of, and \$32 preferred. Tickets for all events are available through the MASS MoCA box office located on Marshall Street in North Adams, open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays. Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling 413.662.2111 during box office hours or purchased online at massmoca.org.

Images

High-resolution images of MASS MoCA’s winter/spring 2017 events are available through this link: bit.ly/mm2017summer.

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world’s liveliest (and largest) centers for making, displaying, and enjoying today’s most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. MASS MoCA will nearly double its gallery space in spring 2017, with artist partnerships that include Laurie Anderson, the Louise Bourgeois Trust, Jenny Holzer, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and James Turrell.

Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under through May 21, 2017. Members are admitted free year-round. The Hall Art Foundation’s Anselm Kiefer exhibition is seasonal and currently on view. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.

Hours

11am to 5pm, closed Tuesdays

Summer Hours (beginning June 24)

10am to 6pm, Sundays–Wednesdays

10am to 7pm, Thursdays–Saturdays