



Tidewater Arts Outreach

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M.S.G.-The Acoustic Blues Trio CD Release Party at Granby North on April 30, 2006 Event Benefits Tidewater Arts Outreach

Norfolk-- M.S.G.-The Acoustic Blues Trio (Miles Spicer on guitar, Jackie Merritt on blues harmonica and Resa Gibbs on vocals and percussion), will celebrate the release of their first CD, "Meet Me In The Middle," at a special concert on April 30, 3 pm at Granby North Restaurant, 9619 Granby Street in Norfolk's Ocean View. Tickets for the coffeehouse/concert are \$20; proceeds will support the work of Tidewater Arts Outreach.

MSG members write original songs and perform material by artists whose music is in East Coast Piedmont blues style. Influenced by ragtime, country string bands, traveling medicine shows, and popular song of the early 20th century, East Coast Piedmont Blues blends both black and white, rural and urban song elements in the diverse urban centers of the Southeast and mid-Atlantic region. and "finger-picking style" of Piedmont blues guitar is reminiscent of West African *kora* playing and earlier banjo styles, also of African origin.

Jackie, Miles and Resa each has been directly or indirectly influenced by Piedmont Blues artists Archie Edwards, John Jackson and John Cephas, through playing with or taking classes from these musicians. The group has been together for 2 ½ years and has received critical acclaim for their solid musicianship, Resa's extraordinary vocals, and their authentic representation of the traditional Piedmont blues music style.

Tidewater Arts Outreach (TAO) was launched in 2004 and brings more than 100 live music and arts activities, programs and entertainment annually to people who are in Hampton Roads day programs, hospitals, homes, facilities and institutions or are otherwise isolated from society. By creating regular opportunities for artists to present the arts in a wide range of settings, Tidewater Arts Outreach supports the spirit of voluntarism in the music and arts community, including students, professionals, and enthusiasts.

The tickets are sold in advance; seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased by mailing a check to TAO Benefit Concert: 512 Twelve Oaks Court, Chesapeake, VA 23322. Make checks payable to *Tidewater Arts Outreach*. Coffees, treats and a raffle are included in the \$20 ticket price. For more information, call 410-4010 or 722-5811, visit www.TWartsoutreach.org (MSG poster and photos are linked to the home page) or www.acousticbluesmsg.com.

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