

"Hawkeye" Herman Blues Music Concert and Workshop

Michael "Hawkeye" Herman, the Tri-Cities' favorite blues musician and blues music educator will be giving a concert at the Battelle Auditorium on October 22, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. Most of you know that the only thing better than hearing his albums is seeing "Hawkeye" Herman in the flesh; it's been at least a year.

The "Hawk" is well known and loved in the Tri-Cities. He was featured artist in the 2004 Tumbleweed Music Festival. Most recently, he wrote "Katrina, Oh Katrina" for the BBC in London.

"Hawkeye" performs a wide variety of traditional blues, ballads, swing, and original tunes on six-string and twelve-string guitars. He is also an adept and exciting practitioner of slide guitar and mandolin.

Advance tickets: \$15 general admission and \$13 for students and seniors.

They are available from the Battelle Staff Association, Battelle Performing Arts Business Center, Octopus' Garden and both Bookworm Stores. Tickets are also available at the door for \$17/\$15 respectively. The concert sponsored by Congregation Beth Sholom. For more information: 509-947-8723 or on the web: <http://www.a-city.us/hawkeye/>.

There will also be a workshop on Sunday, October 23 sponsored by the Three Rivers Folklife Society. Cost is \$15 by reservation. For more information: 783-9937.

Hawkeye Herman's web site: <http://www.hawkeyeherman.com>

Read on...

Harry Babad
eTalk Editor

'Hawkeye' Herman pens hurricane song

By David Burke Quad City Times

Saturday, September 10, 2005

Michael "Hawkeye" Herman says he works best under the pressure of a deadline. It's a good thing.

The Davenport, IA, native and nationally acclaimed blues performer was tabbed by the British Broadcasting Corp., or BBC, to write a song about Hurricane Katrina. The request came the day after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on Aug. 30 —and his deadline was Sept. 2.

"If I'm given a deadline, it could be a year away and I'm waiting until three or four days away anyway," Herman said in a telephone interview Friday from Kansas City, Mo. "I work better under a tight deadline."

Herman was in Kansas City to perform at a blues festival and a "blues in the schools" program. He was to debut the song, "Katrina, Oh Katrina," Friday night on a KC public radio station.

It was scheduled to be performed on BBC Radio's "Today" show sometime next week. The morning show has an audience of 7 million, Herman has been told, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Herman had written about disasters before, including the Great Flood of '93 that struck the Quad-City (IA & IL) region and beyond.

A BBC producer became acquainted with the musician while researching a book, "Blue Highway," about the musical legacy of U.S. 61.

That same producer had 20 minutes' notice to pack his bags and fly from London to Biloxi, Miss., to cover the Katrina devastation, Herman said. "He said it looked like a bomb went off."

The 60-year-old Herman said he came up with much of the lyrics and the tune to the blues song while taking his daily bike ride in Southern Oregon, where he now lives with his family.

"The first thing I thought of was that Katrina was such a beautiful name to have that attached to a disaster," he said. "That was going to be the hook." Herman said he is very familiar with Biloxi, including its 14 huge casinos, all of which were destroyed by the hurricane and its aftermath.



Despite seeing the damage on TV, he said it is hard to comprehend. "If the land around the Mississippi was flat and, if you could imagine, everything all the way up to Locust Street (in Davenport, IA) from the river wiped out," he said. And pointing out that it is 70 miles from Biloxi to New Orleans, "If you could imagine a line like that from Dubuque, IA to the Quad-Cities destroyed."

Herman said he becomes reflective after disasters like Katrina and looks at the big picture. "I have a tendency to say, 'OK, what have we learned from this? What can we learn from this? What positive thing can come out of it?' he said. "It seems that no matter what disasters are thrust upon humanity, we somehow manage to adapt and adjust and rebuild and eventually put the negative aspects aside."

Ellis Kell, a veteran Quad-City blues musician and director of music, programs and operations for the River Music Experience, said Herman's background qualified him to write the song. "Hawkeye's always been sensitive to that because he's from this area," Kell said. "We both shared a sensitivity to that, growing up around the river, and I think all musicians do."

Herman - whose songs about the '93 flood were used in several documentaries - said he hopes the new song can be commercially recorded, either by himself or someone else, with the profits going to relief efforts.

"My artistic and commercial interests are the same. I would feel absolutely guilt-ridden to have a disaster be the result of my seeing profit," he said. "That's nice, but I couldn't see myself profiting from it."

**The Rest of the Story -
Information from the BBC**

BBC/London requests hurricane blues song from Hawkeye Herman
And overnight, "Hawkeye" Herman pens hurricane song. The piece aired on BBC Radio 4/"Today" on "9/19/05 at 8:20 AM - prime time, 7 million or so listeners!

Hurricane Katrina and the Blues...
For the poor black populations of Louisiana and Mississippi at the turn of the last century, jazz and blues developed not just as a way to escape hardship - if only for a few hours on a

Saturday night - but as a method of communicating news.

Field workers had very limited access to newspapers - or even, later, to radio - even in the forties and fifties. So the collective back catalogue of American blues musicians is loaded with references to newsworthy events of the time.

From the curse of the boll weevil, which destroyed cotton crops, to the tragic Mississippi flood of 1927, life in the South was recorded in the lyrics of blues songs.

On Today on Saturday 3 September
Mark Coles suggested that
Hurricane Katrina would, in
time, find its way into blues
verse. We decided to hasten the
process by inviting the American
blues musician Michael 'Hawkeye'
Herman - who's written songs
about the 1993 Mississippi
floods - to come up with his own
'Hurricane Blues'.

You can also listen to the song,
as well as view the article
here:

<http://www.hawkeyeherman.com/news04.htm>

"Katrina, Oh Katrina

Words and music by
Michael "Hawkeye" Herman
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Productions
www.HawkeyeHerman.com

Katrina, oh Katrina
You have such a lovely name
Katrina, oh Katrina
You have such a lovely name
But since Hurricane Katrina
Things will never be the same

You were born out on the water
But it was land that you would
claim
You were born out on the water
But it was the earth that you
would claim
Katrina, oh Katrina
You have such a lovely name

Your wind it started rising
Then your mighty waters came
Yes, your wind it started rising
Then your mighty waters came
Katrina, oh Katrina
You have such a lovely name

So many dead, so many homeless
It's a sad and crying shame
So many dead and thousands
homeless
Yes, it's a sad and crying shame
But Katrina, oh Katrina
Such a lovely, deadly name

You brought ruin to New Orleans
The land where blues rose up to
fame
Yes, you brought your
devastation
To where these blues rose up to
fame
But Katrina, oh Katrina
You have such a lovely name

The lesson you have taught us
There is no storm that man can
tame
Yes, there's a lesson you have
taught us
There is no storm that we can
tame
Katrina, oh Katrina
You have such a lovely, deadly
name

We're going to start all over
All you've destroyed we will
reclaim
Yes, we're going to start all
over
All you've destroyed we will
reclaim
But we won't forget Katrina
Such a lovely, deadly name

Katrina, oh Katrina
You have such a lovely name
Katrina, oh Katrina
You have such a lovely name
But since Hurricane Katrina
Things will never be the same

