

Contact: Stacey Mahoney
1302 Adams Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180
Phone: 601-631-2997
Fax: 601-631-3734
Email: stacey@southernculture.org
Website: www.southernculture.org



PRESS RELEASE

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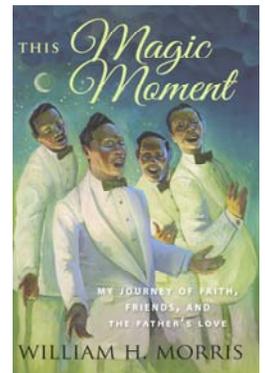
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCHF presents “Remembering Rufus & The Red Tops”

VICKSBURG, MS (October 1, 2021): The Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation (SCHF) is very excited to present “**Remembering Rufus & The Red Tops**” on **Friday, October 22, 2021**, at **11:30 am** in the SCHC Courtyard. Like other longtime Mississippi residents, **Bill Morris** considers the dances he attended with Rufus McKay and The Red Tops of Vicksburg to be some of the happiest times of his youth. He was first introduced to the band while still in junior high but the love affair continued through college and beyond. McKay’s mellow rendition of “Danny Boy,” which became the band’s signature song, still evokes sentimental feelings and gratitude for the treasured memories the band created for so many. “There was usually not a dry eye in the dance hall,” recalls Morris.



Morris has written about his passion for early rock & roll/doo wop and rhythm & blues, and his remarkable decades long friendships with McKay and three other legendary singers who were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, in his book, ***This Magic Moment: My Journey of Faith, Friends and the Father's Love*** (Fitting Words, November 2019). Morris will share his memories and photos of The Red Tops and others in his talk at 11:30-12:00 pm before the luncheon. He will also autograph copies of his book with half of the proceeds from book sales benefitting the Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation. It is fitting that the Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation is focusing on The Red Tops for this particular luncheon event as October 22 would have been Rufus' 95th birthday.



Morris was scheduled to be a panelist at this year’s Mississippi Book Festival. The live festival was cancelled due to COVID, but a virtual panel with host Marshall Ramey will be coming soon.

“Remembering Rufus & The Red Tops” is offered in conjunction with the 14th annual “Classics in the Courtyard” concert series. Immediately following the book signing will be the second week of “Classics in the Courtyard.” Stay and enjoy listening to some of your “Red Top” favorites played by the Calvin Duncan, Jr. Band! Calvin Duncan, Jr. is a musician, singer, songwriter, recording artist, and a true star in the Vicksburg Blues Society’s roster of artists. Honoring the 95th birthday of the legendary Rufus Lee McKay, Calvin has rehearsed with his band to perform music performed in the 50’s and 60’s by the famous Red Tops of Vicksburg, from 12-1pm in the SCHC Courtyard. And wait! If you don’t have to go back to work right away, hang around and enjoy a bonus set from 1-2 pm. This concert is presented in partnership with the Vicksburg Blues Society. The concert is free! Lunch is \$12/person and will be provided by Goldie’s Express. Reservations are required for lunch and should be made by Thursday, October 21st by 5 pm. To make a reservation, please call 601-631-2997.



For more information, please call the SCHF office at 601-631-2997 or email info@southernculture.org.

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