

THANK YOU

This picture shows people from Ann Arbor, Flint, Holland, Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland & Idlewild. There is a county social worker, director of the county transportation system, doula and the granddaughter of Dorothy Grier. We showcased two DILG scholars during this five-hour festival and you made this possible.



Grier World Cultural Communication Non-Profit

Dorothy Lee Grier Scholarship



Annual Music Fest

The Annual Grier Music Fest is more than just music in the park. The daylong event honors scholar recipients, provides a free family cultural outing, showcases Grier family musical talent, creates space for entrepreneurs young & old through vendors, and has people from the Midwest. This year Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and even Florida gather in Idlewild for the Dorothy I. Lee Grier Music Festival. A good time was had by all. {See pict below; Dorothy's kids with the homestead behind them. John, Chris (CJ), Gezelle, Erica, & Kyle. "Thank You."



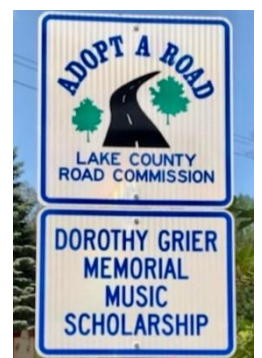
Grier Remembered,

Festival, Road, and Scholarship Bear Witness

After a life devoted to religious and children's music education, Dorothy's children are committed to furthering her influence and legacy through a memorial music scholarship. Scores of children and adults throughout the Midwest have had the pleasure of taking lessons from Mrs. Grier. Most used their gift to join the beginner piano club. Some have taken it and established careers and second jobs. All have had a unique pleasure of studying with a rare jewel. Thank you for joining us in providing musical scholarships in piano and violin in the poorest county in Michigan and the fourth poorest county in the nation? Annually, on the first Saturday in July, in Idlewild Michigan join us for the Dorothy Irene Lee Grier Memorial Musical Festival.

Family annually honor Matriarch's contributions. Well done, good and faithful servant.

If you visit Historic Idlewild Michigan, 72 miles north of Grand Rapids, and travel down the main thoroughfare, you will probably end of driving on a stretch of road dedicated to Dorothy Grier, mother, teacher, church pianist, and community advocate. From the downtown section (MLK Blvd. and Lake Drive near the bar, chamber of commerce and post office toward the Baldwin downtown area to where Foreman Road and Virginia Avenue meet, this has been dedicated in Honor of Mrs. Grier by her family. The family is thankful for Leroy Williams and the Lake County Road Commission.



Meet the Inaugural Scholarship Recipients



Chris C.J. Kingdom-Grier Opens 30th Annual Jazz Festival



Son of the community, Chris Grier opened the 30th season of summer concerts in Baldwin, Michigan. Held annually from Father's Day to Labor Day, these free concerts happen every Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 7-9:15 p.m.

This is the fifth year Grier opened up, though usually with a large, combined choir, due to covid, Grier did a mostly solo concert, while inviting his sister and recording artist, Gezelle, to accompany him. See you next year on the Wednesday after Father's Day, where Grier will open once again!



Abraham-Arnold & Roberts perform at 2nd Grier Fest

Ryland Abraham-Arnold is a rising 8th grader and loves music. He is an expert singer and increasing his piano skills to match. "I am thankful for this opportunity to learn," said Ryland.

JaMario Roberts is also a rising 8th grader and loves Sports. He is a multisport athlete and plays guitar and drums. "I liked the challenge", said Roberts.



Grier's Provide Food & Raise Funds.

For the second year in a row, the Grier family has used the Baldwin Community Schools Alumni basketball game (held annually during the County Festival "Trout-a-Rama") to provide concessions for game attendees. Event organizer and friend of the family, Quizan "Que" Fitz, invited the Grier's to fund raise for the scholarship fund, by providing snacks for the two games played during the Saturday of the festival. This year was a blast behind the window.

Grier-Myers 5th Idlewild

Musical

*In small little town, a little Northwest
I like to say it's one of the best
It's my, my..... Idlewild
Couldn't wait 'til spring
See what summer brings
New friends, summer games
Or even a 3-month fling
I'm talking bout, talking bout, My Idlewild.*

This is the first verse of the one of the original songs written by Gezelle Grier Myers for her Historical My Idlewild: The Musical. It chronicles the people, famous and locally famous, that made Idlewild a very special place. With a live band, soloist, duets, groups like the four tops, Dinah Washington, Fats Waller, and Sarah Vaughan come to life and sing as well as tell the narrative of Idlewild. Those who have attend the five performances since 2012 (the centennial celebration of Idlewild) have been entertained, educated, and empowered each time they are enveloped in this dramatic expose. Keep a look out for another Idlewild themed play coming your way by Grier-Myers.





July 3, 2021 Grier Memorial was family reunion too.

Dorothy Irene Lee Grier's diminuendo and final cadence from this world to become fully whole and present with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, took place at 8:10pm December 11, 2020. Born January 11, 1933, Dorothy was the 10th of 12 children born to James Lyell Lee and Essie (McMorris) Lee.



Dorothy's five kids above at her December 18, 2020, Private Memorial Service {above}

Due to the worldwide pandemic, Covid-19, the siblings, and a few of the grandkids attended a small private ceremony at the St. Ann's Catholic Church in Baldwin Michigan. The rest of those left grieving were invited to a memorial festival honoring her memory, celebrating her legacy, and launching a scholarship in her honor in July in Historic Idlewild. Thus began the Dorothy Lee Grier Music Festival (also known as the "Grier Fest"). Funds would be used to increase the musical and cultural arts in the Greater Idlewild Area. All but one grandchild and great grands attended the five-hour park event. Dorothy's nieces, nephews and family friends from Cleveland, Illinois, Pennsylvania and throughout the Midwest came to celebrate. Grands and great grands did a tribute. Granddaughter Jewell Grier-Bland and Gezelle Kingdom-Grier gave musical tributes, professional musicians from the region came to pay tribute through song. Daughter Gezelle and her jazz ensemble performed, and tributes were read and spoken including a lifelong educational colleague and friend, Lottie Tyson. The event ended with a gospel concert by the Grier family with the house band.



Grier Named Yates Township/Idlewild Historian & Archivist

At the December 2021 Yates Township Board Meeting, Chris CJ Kingdom-Grier was made the Official Township Historian & Archivist. Chris was excited to dream about & continue efforts to preserve a culture and history. His collection of Black Memorabilia is vast and includes a sizeable Idlewild portion. Also, this same township board gave him possession of the Historic Idlewild School/Library/Community Center where Grier plans to flourish Idlewild history, tourism, education, ecology, education and a center for portable/pop-up Idlewild artifacts and stories. Keep watching for Idlewild History.....

Grier Anderson Honors Beloved Principal Nichols at Annual Alumni Game '22



Months before the annual Baldwin High School Alumni Game, Erica Grier Anderson '78 felt prompted to honor a well known and loved principal, Al Nichols. After contacting his wife

and sharing her desire, Grier-Anderson contacted organizer, Quizan Fitz, of the Alumni game and honoring of Nichols was set, though due to a back surgery, it would be a hybrid ceremony. Erica made an 8' banner for alum to sign, created a book of thank you quotes from other BHS alum & past staff, a plaque and presented his sons with these gifts. Nichols was overcome with extreme gratefulness and shared that with the Grier siblings and many others.

Dorothy Lee Grier Music Fests culminate with rousing church service at Historic Tabernacle A.M.E. Church

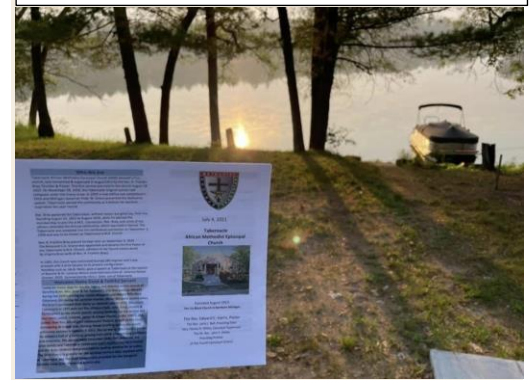
The 1st & 2nd Grier Fest ended with the Grier Children providing leadership for the church that nurtured them, Tabernacle African Methodist Episcopal Church. Tabernacle was the first church established in Black Eden, Idlewild, MI. The Grier Matriarch started playing the piano there in 1970, reminiscent of her years playing for the historic St. John AME Church in Historic Cleveland, OH where she was reared. Sunday Service included preaching from eldest son Kyle, piano playing from granddaughter Jewell Bland Grier,

singing included Erica & both Gezelles (Kingdom-Grier & Grier-Myers) and audio tech was the younger Christopher. The park was nicely attended, and the service included the full liturgy as remembered by the Grier children: Pure nostalgia at its best. We are so grateful for our mother church, Tabernacle and invite you to join us in helping them with necessary renovations due to a collapsed beam, which has made the church uninhabitable the past three years. Donations can be sent to:

**T.A.M.E. Restoration Fund PO Box 95
Idlewild, MI 49642**



{above} Historic Tabernacle A.M.E. Church.
{below} July 2020 Sunday Service program honoring Dorothy, led by her children & grands.



Grier World PO Box 152
Cultural Communication Idlewild, MI 49642

Grier World Cultural Communication
501c3 non-profit