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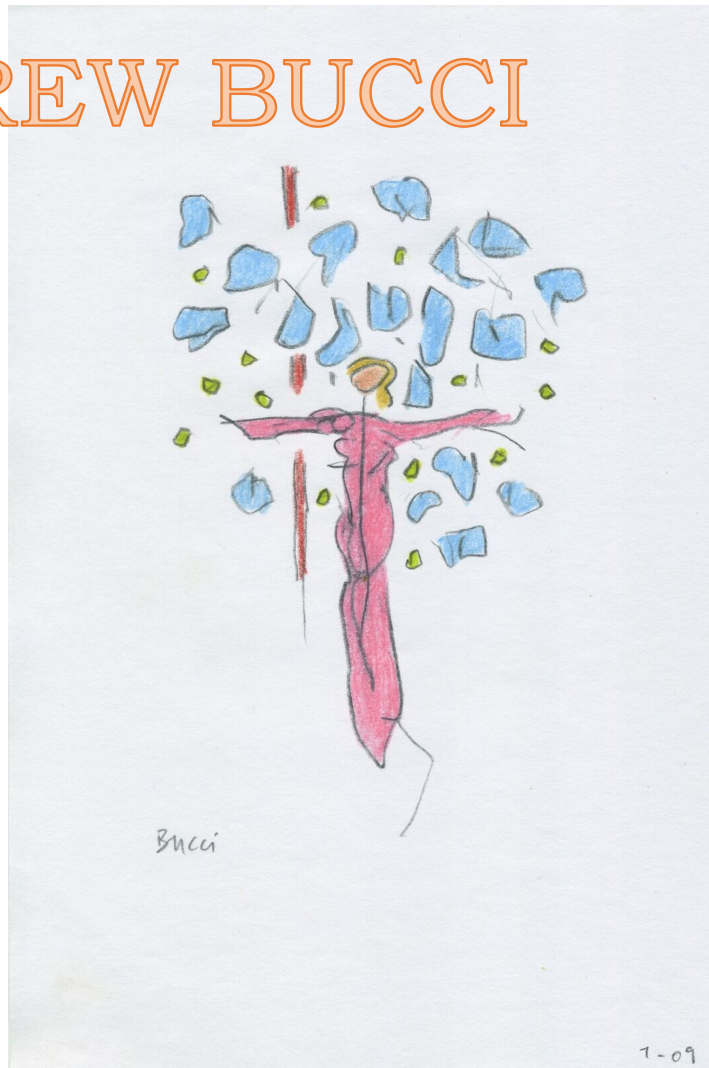
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WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR OF OXFORD

On behalf of the Board of Aldermen and people of the entire community I would like to welcome the Old-Time Piano Playing Contest and Festival to Oxford.

While I am certain that we will enjoy your music, we hope that the contestants and their families, along with the many fans who come to Oxford will enjoy what we believe is a magical place.

Small, historical, charged with the beauty and the excitement of the University of Mississippi and the young people associated with the campus, and home to some of the best restaurants in the nation; we believe what our tourism professionals most proudly proclaim: *Oxford* — visit once and you always return.

Again, welcome, we hope that you will enjoy your stay as I am sure we will enjoy your music.

Sincerely,

George G. Patterson, *Mayor*

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Dear competitors and guests,

Welcome to Oxford and the University of Mississippi. Our community is excited about hosting the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest and Festival once again. The musical styles that you cultivate represent a stimulating addition to our already diverse musical traditions, and I am confident they will find a congenial home here.

We hope that you will enjoy our wonderful venues, diverse eateries, and artistic atmosphere. You will discover that Oxford's reputation as a vibrant cultural and educational center, as well as a great town for celebrations, is well-deserved. My best wishes for a successful and pleasurable stay.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Riggs, *Professor and Chair*
Department of Music

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to the second season of the Old-Time Piano Playing Contest in Oxford! I hope you have a thoroughly enjoyable time while you are here. Going into our second year, I had two immediate goals in mind – increasing the participation in the Junior Division and attracting a larger local audience

base. I am happy to see that we have more than twice the number of Junior contestants as last year.

What separates this event from the many ragtime festivals out there is the unique aspect of competition, open to young and old, and the inclusion of various musical genres like ragtime, traditional jazz, novelty song and blues. This year, our youngest contestant is age 8 and our oldest is age 79.

Take in the hospitality and southern charm that abounds in our community. If you need anything, just ask one of the many volunteers. Please fill out one of survey forms in the Nutt Auditorium foyer so we know what you liked and what improvements we need to make. We would also like to know how you found out about our event so we can better focus our advertising in the future. We want you to have a relaxing and fun experience and we want you to come back.

Sit back and enjoy some old-time piano playing from a diverse group of performers from across the country ... tell your friends about it ... and bring them back with you next year!

Ian Hominick,
Artistic Director



HISTORY OF THE FESTIVAL

As a fundraiser on Memorial Day in 1975, the Monticello Railway Museum hosted the first of 12 World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contests that took place in that small town, located about halfway between Champaign and Decatur, Illinois. For 11 of those years, the contest took place on the rear platform of an old railroad caboose to the delight of hundreds of folks in lawn chairs, more in bleachers and even some perched atop box cars to get a better view. The last year it took place in Monticello was the same day as “Hands Across America” and lots of folks suspected there’d be traffic problems and stayed away. Others were deterred by a chill breeze and cloudy skies with sprinkles of rain as the wind swept over the high school football field, pressed into service in anticipation of bigger crowds. Consequently, 1986 was the year we decided to take our event, which had expanded to two days with afterglow parties, inside.

By 1987, we were ensconced in the Holiday Inn on the west side of Decatur Ill., and our stay there lasted until our move to Peoria in the late 90s. We spent two years with the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel after a long stretch at the Hotel Père Marquette, which closed for renovation. When the Four Points suddenly closed, the Peoria Convention and Visitor’s Bureau came to our rescue and we moved to the Embassy Suites for a few years.

Our first contestant in 1975 showed up on a day that was hot and sweaty and would eventually be plagued by tornadoes nearby, forcing the contest into a baggage car with a back-up piano. Four contestants showed up but so did about 40 spectators. By year two, we were down to three contestants, but a much bigger audience and the third year, about 600 came to watch, boosted by our champ’s appearance on the Mike Douglas show in Cleveland, Ohio. After reading about her in a newspaper story in Chicago which was picked up by the wire services, the show flew her there for an appearance that also had Bob Hope and Jethro Tull’s singer Ian Anderson. She was thrilled, we were thrilled and we wound up with a dozen contestants.

Our champ for the first two years was Joybelle Squibb, a golf-playing granny from Vandalia, Ill. Dorothy M. Herrold, a retired school teacher who got into playing full-time after her husband died, beat Squibb in 1977.



Audience brought their lawn chairs, Monticello, Ill., Railway Museum



Boxcar seats



Joybelle Squibb, age 71, 1977

Herrold, of LaPorte, IN, won three times in a row through 1979. She was our first of several three-time winners.

Through the years, the contest expanded from a one-afternoon affair where everybody picked up their lawn chair when the last tune was played and went to take a train ride. The first addition was a party afterward, with the first one held at Shakey's Pizza Parlor in Champaign, Ill. Everybody spent the next 5 hours eating, drinking and singing along with the piano players. Having the event at a hotel solved the problem of lodging for those coming in for both days and also gave us rooms for the afterglows — with food service thrown in.

Since 2016, things changed with the contest and all its events moved from Illinois to Mississippi. Instead of a hotel ballroom for our event, we're using a concert hall that's part of the University of Mississippi Department of Music, and holding our after-hours events at the Oxford University Club. We're hoping it was enough fun for you to come back next year!

Ted Lemen, Founder



Dorothy M. Herrold, Laporte, IN First 3-time champ



Ted entertains



Ted Lemen, Mimi Blais, and Judy Leschewski

GUEST ARTISTS AND JUDGES



Paul Asaro is known as one of the finest of a select group of pianists who have mastered the demanding two-handed jazz and ragtime piano styles from the first half of the 20th century. In a career now spanning two decades, Asaro has performed at theaters and clubs worldwide and has appeared at the Chi-

cago Jazz Festival, Ravinia, the Toronto Jazz Festival, the Festival International de Jazz de Montreal, and the Ascona Jazz Festival in Switzerland. He has performed onstage with musical legends, such as: Leon Redbone, Steve Allen, Marian McPartland, Butch Thompson, Jeff Healy, and Vince Giordano. He was the featured pianist in the Obie award winning Broadway production of “Jelly Roll! The Music and the Man.” Asaro also played for the national tour and numerous regional productions of “Jelly Roll!” including a run in Philadelphia resulting in a Barrymore Award nomination. Asaro has had long runs as house pianist aboard the New Orleans steamboat “Delta Queen” and in Chicago with Jim Beebe’s band featuring former Louis Armstrong All-Star, Barrett Deems, and the legendary tenor man Franz Jackson. Currently, Asaro tours the country with Leon Redbone, playing concerts as a duo as well as appearing on NPR’s “A Prairie Home Companion” and “Mountain Stage,” and recording for Redbone’s latest studio album. Asaro’s piano can be heard on two recent albums by singer and guitarist Loudon Wainwright III including the 2010 Grammy Award winning “Charlie Poole Project.” Recent appearances include the Twin Cities Jazz Festival’s “Stride Piano Night,” an extended solo tour for Allied Concert Services, and in HBO series “Boardwalk Empire” with Giordano’s band. When not on the road, Asaro performs weekly with the jazz band “The Fat Babies,” at the Chicago jazz club, The Green Mill, and at the Honky Tonk BBQ, playing a variety of jazz from the 1920s-1940s. The group has released two albums to critical acclaim, with their Delmark Records release “Chicago Hot” named one of the “best jazz album releases of 2012” by the Chicago Tribune.

“Paul Asaro’s ebullient stride-piano technique vividly evokes an earlier era. You don’t encounter pre-bebop jazz of this quality and commitment very often anymore.” – Chicago Tribune



Tom McDermott is one of New Orleans’ premiere piano players and composers. He grew up in St. Louis, where he earned a Masters’ Degree in Music, wrote music journalism for the morning paper, and soaked up the sounds of ragtime and traditional jazz that flourished there in the

1960s and 70s. In 1984, spurred by his love of James Booker, Professor Longhair and Dr. John, he moved to New Orleans, enabled by a gig at the World’s Fair. For much of the 1990s he was a Duke of Dixieland, which took him to Europe, Asia, South America and all over the States (including Carnegie Hall); he recorded several albums with the Dukes, including a tribute to Jelly Roll Morton with the fabled raconteur Danny Barker.

In 1995, after arranging a tune for the Dirty Dozen Brass Band album “Jelly,” he co-founded the modern brass band the New Orleans Nightcrawlers. During his stay with the band they recorded three albums, two for the Rounder Records label.

McDermott has written for the theatre (the Obie-award-winning off-Broadway show, “Nita and Zita”), and appeared in bit roles in the movies (“He Said She Said”). In the New Orleans-based HBO series “Treme,” he portrayed himself five times in three seasons, and had 10 pieces of music used on the soundtrack. His original music has also appeared in Showtime series “The Knick.”

He has recorded 15 albums as a leader. These recordings include 75 original tunes. His music has been heard frequently on NPR’s. “All Things Considered”, “American Routes”, and “The Moth.” A group he co- led with clarinetist Evan Christopher, the Danza Quartet, appeared on NPR’s New Year’s Eve show “Toast of the Nation” in 2008-2009.

McDermott is known for his eclecticism, and is just about the only New Orleans pianist to stretch from the mid-19th-century music of Louis Moreau Gottschalk to the funky New Orleans piano today. He has a great love of Brazilian music (17 trips there so far), the Beatles, European classical music, early Duke Ellington, and much more.

“...Tom McDermott plays the fastest, wildest ragtime, Brazilian and stride piano you’ve ever heard.”
– New York Times



Adam Swanson is rapidly becoming known as one of the world's foremost performers and historians of ragtime and early American popular music. He completed the Masters in Musicology at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in 2016 and has spent the past year in doctoral studies

at the University of California - Davis. Swanson has been a featured performer and lecturer at ragtime and jazz festivals across the U.S., and is the youngest three-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. In 2007, he appeared alongside the late John Arpin at the Bohem Ragtime and Jazz Festival in the Republic of Hungary and has also toured Switzerland. Swanson made his New York debut in Carnegie Hall at the age of nineteen, where he performed with multi-platinum-selling artist Michael Feinstein. In 2013, Swanson made his first appearance at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington, D.C. Swanson enjoys working with other musicians and has recorded albums with pianist Frederick Hodges, former rock star Ian Whitcomb, and legendary 1950s recording artist Johnny Maddox, who is one of his greatest influences. He is musical director for the Durango Ragtime and Early Jazz Festival in Durango, Colo.



Bryan Wright, Ph.D., is a pianist and musicologist based in Pittsburgh, Pa., where he is presently an instructor at the University of Pittsburgh. He is also the founder and owner of Rivermont Records, a label specializing in ragtime and jazz. A native of Lynch-

burg, Va., he first showed musical interest as a toddler and began classical piano lessons with Sandra Horwege at age 5. Violin lessons were added two years later. In his early teens, Wright became keenly interested in ragtime, jazz, and related styles, adding pieces by Scott Joplin, Fats Waller, and others to his repertoire. By 15 he was host of a popular weekly radio program, Sunday Night Nostalgia, in Central Virginia. The program featured big bands, vintage jazz, and "old-time radio" dramas (with occasional live in-studio dramas directed by Wright). As an undergraduate at the College of William and Mary (Williamsburg, Va.), he furthered his piano studies with Christine Niehaus, and hosted a

weekly ragtime radio program, Elite Syncopations, on WCWM-FM. (Laying the groundwork for the first 24-hour internet ragtime radio station, Elite Syncopations Radio, which Wright operated 2003-2010.)

In addition to performances as far afield as France, Japan, and Argentina, Wright has been a featured pianist and lecturer at some of the most prestigious jazz and ragtime festivals across the United States, including the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival (Sedalia, Mo.), the West Coast Ragtime Festival (Sacramento, Calif.), and the JVC Jazz Festival (New York City).

He has also performed at the San Antonio Ragtime Festival (San Antonio, Texas), the Oklahoma Centennial Ragtime Festival (Tulsa, Okla.), the Blind Boone Ragtime and Early Jazz Festival (Columbia, Mo.), and the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime Festival (Rock Hill Furnace, Pa.).

As a musicologist, he completed his doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. Wright has written articles for the Grove Dictionary of American Music and presented papers at both local and national meetings of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) and the American Musicological Society (AMS). In 2005 he was winner of the Lowens Award presented by the Capitol Chapter of the American Musicological Society.

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2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017	
7 p.m.	Tune-ups Party at the Oxford University Club
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017	
10 a.m.	Double-decker Bus Tour of Oxford followed by a Musical Luncheon at the Oxford University Club
2 p.m.	Contest Reception Desk Open in foyer
4 p.m.	Workshop with Paul Asaro, "Stride Piano: Styles and Techniques," in Nutt Auditorium
7 p.m.	New Rag & Duet Contests
9 p.m.	Ring of Ragtime at the Oxford University Club (<i>begins at conclusion of the contests</i>)
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2017	
8 a.m.	Contestants draw for playing order in Room #155
9 a.m.	Preliminary Eliminations and Junior Division Contest
11:45 a.m.	Silent Movie Box Lunch in Room #146 with Adam Swanson
5:30 p.m.	Dinner with the 2016 Champion William McNally at the Oxford University Club
7:30 p.m.	PianoStravaganza™ and Sing-along featuring Paul Asaro, Tom McDermott, Bryan Wright, Adam Swanson, and friends (Sing-along and Old-Time Orchestra segments included) at the Oxford University Club
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017	
9 a.m.	Workshop with Tom McDermott, "The Cuban and Brazilian Connection," in Nutt Auditorium
10:30 a.m.	Workshop with Bryan Wright, "Waxing the Strenuous Life! Recording the Complete Works of Scott Joplin," in Nutt Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	Semi-finals and Finals in Nutt Auditorium
6 p.m.	Dinner on your own (Oxford University Club is open for dinner)
8 p.m.	Closing Reception at the Oxford University Club



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CONTESTANT PROFILES



Jacob Adams was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minn., and began studying piano at 10. He studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the University of Illinois. Adams became part of the ragtime circuit in 2009 when invited to perform at the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival and participated in the Old-Time Piano Playing Contest the following year. He taught and performed extensively in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area until last year, when he started work for Royal Caribbean Cruises playing piano on the Harmony of the Seas. He will be moving to Chicago in June.



Nathan Beasley is a 17-year-old pianist from Southern Illinois who has performed in many music halls and auditoriums in many different states. Like most young Ragtime pianists, Nathan first found his passion for Ragtime and other early American Popular music while

searching the Internet. He was only 12 years old when he first attempted to play this type of music. Nathan played piano many years before he crossed paths with this music, but Ragtime brought a whole new meaning in his attempt to succeed in playing piano professionally. He has performed twice with the St. Louis Confluence Chamber Orchestra at the Lee Auditorium in St. Louis, Mo., and 2016 was his second year competing in the junior division of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest.



Richard H. Bliesener II is a 12-year-old pianist known as “Ragtime Richie” in Burlington, Iowa. He has played piano for five years and is an accomplished violinist and percussionist. He is the reigning 2016 Hannibal’s Got Talent champion (age 9-15 group)

in Missouri. He has competed at the Iowa State Fair Bill Riley Talent show in 2015 and 2016 in Des Moines, Iowa. Bliesener is a 6th grade honor roll student who plays in the orchestra, band, and jazz band. He was selected to participate in the 2016 Southeast Iowa Honor Band as a percussionist. He plays in a church band ensemble and is currently starting his own jazz band. He was invited to play ragtime shows for the 2016 Mt. Pleasant, Iowa Old Threshers Reunion. Bliesener is a piano student of Faye Ballard, Champaign, Ill.



Kelton Boblits is from Fayette County, W. Va. He is 13-years-old and in the eighth grade. Kelton started playing piano at the age of six. At age eleven, he learned “Maple Leaf Rag,” which sparked his interest in ragtime. He then expanded his interests to include stride, early jazz, and boogie-woogie. Kelton plays piano and percussion in the local youth symphony orchestra, and he is the piano accompanist for a local youth chorus. He enjoys performing in West Virginia schools to encourage other students to get involved in music. Kelton also enjoys playing the resophonic guitar.



David Cavalari is a software engineer and musician from Eagan, Minn., although he grew up in Fairfax, Va. He worked as the piano player at the Alaska Cabin Nite Dinner Theater in Denali National Park for five years, and has also performed at many regional theaters across the country. He has been a three-time finalist of the Old Time Piano Contest and a finalist in 2016.



Michael Drexler is the Executive Director of digital licensing business development for BMI, Broadcast Music, Inc. In addition to his career in the music business and digital media, Michael is also an accomplished pianist, music producer and audio engineer with two

GRAMMY nominations for audio engineering and production. Drexler graduated from Berklee College of Music in Boston with a Professional Diploma in Jazz Piano Performance. Born in Munich, Germany, he had his first regular piano lesson at age seven. At age eight, he was cast in his first professional TV performance as a singer and subsequently performed on television, radio, and appeared on various recordings throughout Europe as singer and pianist, including projects with: Boney M., The Piano Blues Duo, The 1984 Olympic Games Rainbow Children, and others. Michael fell in love with ragtime, blues, and jazz after attending his first jam session at age twelve and soon thereafter began jazz piano lessons in addition to classical. About two years ago Michael rediscovered his love for Ragtime and early Jazz music and is very excited to be part of the 2017 World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest.



Bill Edwards, a native of Southern California, discovered ragtime when he was six years old, and hasn't been able to leave it alone since. He started his professional career in California in the late 1970s. Bill has lived and worked in Northern Virginia since 1986

and was a featured entertainer at the Fish Market in Alexandria for many years. Since 1996, Edwards has managed the website ragpiano.com, which includes biographies of over 350 ragtime era figures. He was recently a featured performer in the award-winning documentary about the competition, "The Entertainers," and artist in residence for the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival in 2014. He frequently accompanies silent films, and has presented seminars on over 20 ragtime-related topics. Mr. Edwards has 44 different CD titles; 20 published compositions; a detailed book on the life of composer and publisher E.T. Paull; and an upcoming encyclopedia on over 530 female composers of popular music from the ragtime era.



Zachary Jones is completing his sophomore year in high school. He has been taking piano lessons since the age of five. He participated in the 2016 World Championship Old Time Piano Playing Contest in the junior division. In addition to studying ragtime music, he has

nearly completed learning "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin and has also been branching out into classical music of the romantic era.



Tom Lakeland's appreciation for ragtime and old-time Americana began twelve years ago with a single Scott Joplin demo on his keyboard. Additional discoveries of Joshua Rifkin's ragtime recordings and the website of Bill Edwards only served to augment the penchant

further. Lakeland performs and composes ragtime, and has expanded his musical interests into the genres of British music hall and the decades of the 1920s and 1930s. While currently in the teaching profession, any time outside of this might find him seeking out antique sheet music or 78 rpm vinyl records. Lakeland is a resident of Great Britain, but visits the United States each summer to see family in Rhode Island.



Riccardo La Spina, from Oakland, Calif., was immersed in musical and theatrical performance from an early age. His love for Ragtime was sparked in the early 1970s. He performed both as a solo pianist and in solo vocal sets, accompanied by Tom Brier, at the 2006 Sacramento

Jazz Jubilee's Ragtime Corner. He has studied voice, vocal pedagogy, and historical musicology in Europe. As a musicologist, La Spina's interests in the nineteenth century include the history and development of vocalism in the Italian style and the development of melody and opera in Mexico and Spain. He has presented papers at major international conferences and is also a contributor to the New Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians.



Angelina Leyva is 11 years old and from Paramus, N.J. She started taking piano lessons at age 5.

Leyva also plays guitar, electric and acoustic bass, and trombone..

Last year, Angelina and her identical twin sister Ashley competed in the Duet Contest at the World

Championship Old Time Piano Playing Contest. They returned home motivated, and dedicated this last year to learning individual ragtime pieces to compete in the junior division as soloists. She plays trombone in the 5th and 6th grade band and the 7th and 8th grade jazz band. She has been chosen to sing in The Select Choir in her middle school, provides piano accompaniment for the 5th and 6th grade choir, and plays upright bass in the school orchestra. Leyva plays electric bass and sings in a rock band with her sister and brother called "The Chips."



Ashley Leyva is 11 years old and from Paramus, N.J. Last year,

Ashley and her identical twin sister Angelina competed in the Duet Contest at the World Championship Old Time Piano Playing Contest. They returned home motivated, and dedicated this last year

to learning ragtime pieces to compete in the junior division as soloists and of course in the duet contest. Leyva plays trombone in the 5th and 6th grade band and the 7th and 8th grade jazz band, has been chosen to sing in The Select Choir in her middle school, provides piano accompaniment for the 5th and 6th grade choir, and plays upright bass in her school orchestra. Leyva is the lead guitarist and sings in her rock band called the "The Chips."



Raymond Liebau, pianist, composer, and arranger, started taking piano lessons at age four. He had a number of inspiring teachers, including Ernst von Dohnanyi, with whom he studied during the last four-and-a-half years of the maestro's life at Florida State University.

Liebau began his teaching career in St. Louis, and came to Ole Miss in 1969, where he taught piano for thirty years and was named the Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher in 1993. Receiving this award was an honor, but his greatest honor was sharing music with some of the finest young people in America. He retired in 1999, and lives near Hot Springs, Ark. with his wife, Ruth



Domingo Mancuello is a theatre director, stage manager and pianist from Pittsburgh, Pa. He specializes in interpreting American popular music from the late 1800's to the 1930's. This includes ragtime and what he likes to call "jazz age piano," the style of playing standards

heard in the 1920's. Domingo made the finals round of the Old-Time Piano Playing Contest in 2013 and 2014, and entertains at festivals across the country.



Bill McHarris has always combined interests in science and music, as a Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Physics/Astronomy at Michigan State University. Originally from Knoxville, Tenn., he has been organist and/or choir director at churches in Tennessee, California, and Michigan. McHarris was one of the original nuclear science faculty at the Cyclotron Laboratory until his retirement in 2008, and has upward of 200 publications in nuclear science. About fifteen years ago, Bill became interested in ragtime, and since then he has composed a dozen rags, mostly for piano but also for piano-organ duo, voice, chorus, and even carillon. This will be his sixth appearance in the New Rag Contest.

...



William McNally is winner of the 2016 World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest, and the first three-time winner of the New Rag Contest. His CD release with works by Brahms, Reger and Busoni was lauded by the New York Times as "effortless ... fascinating

... mercurial... and intelligently curious." His Rivermont Records CD, "Chickens 'n' Kittens," demonstrates

his interest in modern and classically trained Ragtime composers, including Bolcom and Godowsky. McNally's 2016 season included performances in Washington, D.C. (twice); East Islip; East Hampton; Oxford, Miss.; Sedalia and St. Louis, Mo.; New York; Pittsburgh; and Dallas, in repertoire ranging from the complete Rachmaninoff preludes, to duo-piano pieces, to ragtime to world premieres. McNally recently completed his doctorate at CUNY's Graduate Center, where he studied with Ursula Oppens and wrote a ragtime-focused dissertation, currently in preparation for publication. At present, he teaches Fine Arts, Writing about Music, and Music Theory in addition to his accompanying work at Texas State University. For more information, visit williammcnally.com.



Charles Mink was born in Elgin, Ill. and later studied as a classical percussionist at the University of Illinois. He taught school in Miami, Fla. for thirty-three years where he taught himself arranger's piano. Charles is now retired and resides in Louisville, Ky.



Oliver Moore, 16, from Chico, Calif., has been playing the piano since the age of six. As a pianist, vocalist, upright bassist, accompanist, arranger, and entertainer, he has performed at various venues throughout northern California. His repertoire ranges from blues,

boogie, and ragtime to classical piano, to the rock and soul of the 50's, 60's, and 70's, and most forms of jazz. Oliver maintains a busy schedule playing gigs, accompanying various productions, singers, and instrumentalists, and playing the upright bass and piano in various orchestras throughout the northern part of the state. Oliver is currently a volunteer in Enloe Hospital's Music for Healing program and is a sophomore at Inspire School of Arts and Sciences. He was awarded "Best Entertainer" at the 2016 Glenn County Fair and has won 1st place at the 2015 and 2016 West Coast Ragtime Competitions. Oliver has performed at the West Coast Ragtime Festival, the Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival, the VOCE chamber music competition in Los Angeles, and many others.



Danielle Newell, a rising 10th grader from Saranac, Mich., is 15-yrs-old and has been playing piano for more than 5 years. She plays all styles of music, including classical, but fell in love with boogie-woogie, blues, and ragtime after seeing her current teacher perform.

Newell plays in local jazz bands, local arts festivals, and other community events.



Paul Orsi began professionally performing ragtime piano at age 13 in pizza parlors. He has been a ragtime aficionado since the “Sting” ragtime revival in the 1970s. In 1983, Paul joined the elite group of Coke Corner Pianists at Disneyland, where he entertained audiences for 10 years. Today, Paul is performing his brand of ragtime for a variety of audiences with more energy and pizzazz than ever! Paul is also an accomplished ragtime composer and has written a number of rags throughout his career. He recently released a published folio of his early works, “Paul Orsi – The Early Years Folio.” In this 53-page typeset collection, Paul presents his ragtime compositions from the 1980s, including the original cover artwork.

Paul is performing his brand of ragtime for a variety of audiences with more energy and pizzazz than ever! Paul is also an accomplished ragtime composer and has written a number of rags throughout his career. He recently released a published folio of his early works, “Paul Orsi – The Early Years Folio.” In this 53-page typeset collection, Paul presents his ragtime compositions from the 1980s, including the original cover artwork.



Jimin Park is a professional pianist, born and raised in a musical family in Seoul, Korea,. Introduced to classical music by her mother, Park began classical studies at the age of four. By age nine, she had already won five awards at prestigious classical competitions. While preparing to audition for one of the most competitive and prestigious arts institutes in Korea, Park fell in love with the alluring sounds of jazz great Oscar Peterson. She began her studies with the roots of jazz piano, and focused on ragtime and stride piano. Park began playing with musicians who were active in Korea’s jazz scene, and by age seventeen, Park was a veteran. She has received a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music.

While preparing to audition for one of the most competitive and prestigious arts institutes in Korea, Park fell in love with the alluring sounds of jazz great Oscar Peterson. She began her studies with the roots of jazz piano, and focused on ragtime and stride piano. Park began playing with musicians who were active in Korea’s jazz scene, and by age seventeen, Park was a veteran. She has received a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music.



Doug Protsik has been researching, preserving, and performing traditional Maine folk music and old-time country dancing for 45 years, specializing in old-time piano and fiddle styles of the region. In the 70’s, while mentoring under the old players, he dedicated his musical life to preserving these unique styles through

musical life to preserving these unique styles through

performance and educational programs such as: director of Maine Fiddle Camp (mainefiddlecamp.org); and touring the world via State Department cultural exchange programs with his band Old Grey Goose International (oldgreygoose.org). Protsik has produced videos from various concerts, from camp, and from world tours that can be seen on YouTube, and currently plays old-time piano with the State Street Traditional Jazz Band (statestreettraditionaljazzband.com). He also performs his original piano scores for silent movies, has recorded silent film restoration soundtracks for Turner Classic Movies, and performed at a silent film festival in Turkmenistan. “I have always thought that the old-time piano style I learned from my mentors in Maine needed a greater awareness, appreciation, and definition beyond “classic ragtime” and this is why I love to support this unique contest.”



Ron Pufall, from Wisconsin, taught elementary school until retiring in 2001. Since retirement, he has been a realtor, a part-time senior benefits specialist, and a part-time county government clerk. He currently drives Medicaid recipients to medical appointments throughout the southern half of Wisconsin. Just turned 75-years-old, he began piano lessons in 3rd grade, learned the guitar on his own, and currently plays either instrument on weekends with a church-ensemble. He has been composing tunes for many years and has titled his entry in the 2017 New Rag Contest: “The Grannie Rag.”

He currently drives Medicaid recipients to medical appointments throughout the southern half of Wisconsin. Just turned 75-years-old, he began piano lessons in 3rd grade, learned the guitar on his own, and currently plays either instrument on weekends with a church-ensemble. He has been composing tunes for many years and has titled his entry in the 2017 New Rag Contest: “The Grannie Rag.”



Samantha Simpson is currently completing her junior year of high school. She has placed at the Mississippi Music Teachers Association finals for 4 years in row including sonata, solo, and ensemble divisions. She enjoys using her talent locally where she sings and plays at various churches, and arranges music from classical hymns to contemporary pieces. She is an active member of the Corinth Master Music Academy band where she plays the French horn. She also loves the stage and was cast as one of the lead female roles in the local theater play Oliver Twist. She started playing ragtime music just two years ago and loves the era and the positive energy in each ragtime piece.

She is an active member of the Corinth Master Music Academy band where she plays the French horn. She also loves the stage and was cast as one of the lead female roles in the local theater play Oliver Twist. She started playing ragtime music just two years ago and loves the era and the positive energy in each ragtime piece.



Eli Smith is a fourteen-year-old eighth grader from Cedar Falls, Iowa. He enjoys playing piano, guitar, tuba, and singing. He participates in school concert band, jazz band, show choir and men's choir. In addition, he has had leading roles in *Mary Poppins* and *The*

Sound of Music at his local community theatre. This is his third appearance at the competition, and his first time in Oxford.



Isaac Smith just completed his first year at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He has written music for woodwind and brass chamber groups, piano, and jazz combos, and looks forward to writing much more in the future. Isaac first attended the World

Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Competition in Peoria, Ill. in 2013, winning the junior competition. The next year, he returned to the competition and placed second. He is looking forward to performing this year, competing for the first time in the regular division and traveling to Oxford for the first time. Isaac has enjoyed playing in piano competitions across the state of Iowa, including *The Eagles and Ivories Ragtime Festival* and the *Bill Riley State Fair*. When he is not writing or performing music, Isaac enjoys running, participating in campus church ministries, and making his friends cringe at his horrible puns and dad jokes.



Samuel Smith is a 4th grader from Cedar Falls, Iowa and is involved in many activities including Lego League, soccer, and Cub Scouts. In addition to the piano, he also plays the bass guitar at home and string bass in his school orchestra. He enjoys playing with his friends,

reading books, and playing with his dog Pepper. This is his first appearance as a performer, but he has attended the festival several times.



Daniel Souvigny is a 16-year old award-winning pianist from Hampshire, Ill.. He began piano lessons at the age of 5, and currently studies classical, jazz, and ragtime music. Daniel is a three-time Junior Champ of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing

Contest. In 2016, he became the youngest to ever take Second Place in the adult division of this Contest, at

the age of 15. Daniel also received overwhelming vote of the audience and was awarded First Place in the 2016 Cutting Contest. In 2014, he was awarded First Place in the Illinois State Talent Competition, Junior Division in Springfield, Ill. Daniel has performed at the West Coast Ragtime Festival in Sacramento, Calif., the *Eagles and Ivories Ragtime Weekend* in Muscatine, Iowa, the *Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival*, and the *Scott Joplin Festival* in Sedalia, Mo. His first CD, "Tearin' Up the Keys," was released in 2013, and his latest album, "Possibilities" in 2015.



Martin Spitznagel, 2011 World Old-Time Piano Playing Champion, discovered ragtime at age 12. By age 14, he'd won a Yamaha Disklavier in Calliope Media's nationwide Crazy for Ragtime competition. His good fortune continued when he met Tony Caramia, who challenged

him to "find the surprise" in every performance. Under Caramia's tutelage, Martin developed an ear for melody, a gift for improvisation, and a talent for composition. In 2011, he was selected as the Scott Joplin Foundation's Artist in Residence, and was awarded "World Champion of Old-Time Piano Playing" at the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest in Peoria, Ill. In 2016, he made his Carnegie Hall debut. When he's not at the piano bench, or chasing after his sons Parker (3) and Declan (1), Spitznagel works as a multimedia producer, writer, and filmmaker in Pittsburgh, Pa., where he lives with his wife, Jessica. He is delighted to return to the contest — his first time at its new home in Oxford.



Kevin Zhou is a ten-year old piano student from Chicago, and began studying piano at age six. He has been trained in classical piano and has won numerous awards from various piano competitions. Kevin recently passed the ISMTA Achievement in Music Examination in May, 2016 and he won the Gold Medal from the North Shore Chicago Music Teachers Association Sonata/Sonatina Festival in 2017. He started playing "The Entertainer" after visiting Disney World, and met a pianist who played rags by Scott Joplin. This is what inspired Kevin to learn ragtime music. Kevin is currently in 4th grade. Besides piano, he also enjoys soccer and flying on airplanes with his father.

CHAMPS THROUGH THE YEARS

(* denotes retired 3-time champions)

REGULAR DIVISION

Joybelle Squibb 1975 and 1976
 Dorothy M. Herrold* 1977 to 1979
 Bruce Petsche 1980
 Mark Haldorson* 1981 to 1983
 Janet Kaizer 1984 and 1985
 Ron Trotta* 1986 to 1988
 Julie McClarey 1989, 1995 and 1996
 Marty Mincer 1990 and 1993
 "Perfessor" Bill Edwards 1991
 Paul Gronemeier 1992
 Mimi Blais 1994 and 2000
 Brian Holland* 1997 to 1999
 Dan Mouyard 2001 and 2003
 Adam Downey 2002
 Adam Yarian* 2004 to 2006
 Ethan Uslan* 2007, 2012, 2014
 Adam Swanson* 2008 to 2010, 2015
 Martin Spitznagel 2011
 Russell Wilson 2013
 William McNally 2016

JUNIOR DIVISION

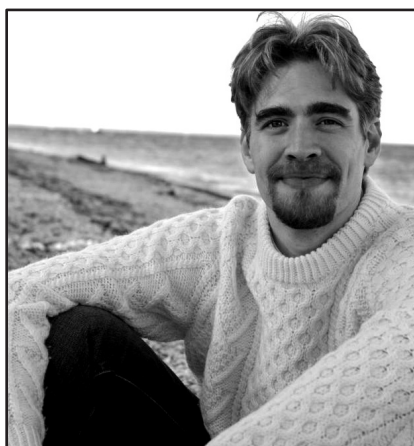
Neil Moe* 1985 to 1987
 Dax Baumgartner* 1988 to 1990
 Adam Downey* 1991 to 1993
 Marty Sammon 1994 and 1995
 Dan Mouyard 1996
 Noah Harmon 1997
 Adam Yarian* 1998 to 2000
 Harrison Wade 2001 and 2005
 Will Best 2002
 Adam Swanson* 2003, 2004, 2006
 Wesley Reznicek 2007 and 2009
 Cassidy Gephart 2008
 Morgan Siever 2010 and 2011
 Isaac Smith 2013
 Daniel Souvigny* 2012, 2014, 2015
 Nina Freeman 2016

NEW RAG CONTEST

Gale Foehner 1997
 "Carondelet"
 Mimi Blais 1998
 "The Turkey"
 Michael Stalcup 1999
 "Short Mountain"
 "Falldown"
 Dan Mouyard 2000
 "Mojo's Marbles"
 Bill Edwards 2001 and 2002
 "The Necromancer"
 "The Wiener Schnitzel"
 David Feurzeig 2003
 "Stride-Rite Rag"
 Ted Lemen 2004 and 2005
 "The Last Rag, Standing"
 "The Number 2 Rag"
 John Harmon 2006
 "The Raspberry Rag"
 Martin Spitznagel 2007 and 2011
 "Red Elephant Rag"
 "The Smoky Rose"
 Bill McNally 2008, 2009, 2012
 "Blue Donkey Rag"
 "Mocha Monkey Rag"
 "Fancy Flight"
 Jacob Adams 2010
 "Procrastinaporag"
 Adam Swanson 2013
 "Strater Shuffle"
 Vincent Matthew Johnson 2014
 "...And So Fourth"
 David Cavalari 2015
 "That 45 RPM Rag"
 Bill Edwards 2016
 "Le Syncope du Papillon"



*Daniel Souvigny,
 2016 Cutting Champion*



2016 Champion William McNally

DUET CONTEST

Bill Edwards & Adam Swanson
 2015
 Adam Swanson & Four Arrows
 2016

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PRELIMINARY ELIMINATIONS SCORECARD

The order of play will be determined by drawing at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, and will be posted for spectators. Fill in the order of play in the circle to the left of the contestant's name, sit back, and enjoy the competition. Rules and scoring categories used by the judges are described on pages 11, 12, & 13



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

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Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____



Selection 1 _____

Selection 2 _____

Points _____

SEMI-FINALS SCORECARD

1. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____	6. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____
2. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____	7. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____
3. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____	8. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____
4. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____	9. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____
5. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____	10. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____

FINALS SCORECARD

1. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____	4. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____
2. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____	5. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____
3. Name _____ #1 _____ #2 _____ Points _____	

JUDGING GUIDELINES

RATING SCALE:

5 = Superior; 4 = Excellent;
3 = Good; 2 = Fair;
1 = Needs Assessment

CATEGORY 1: TECHNIQUE	
Finger Dexterity	Keyboard Coverage
Note Accuracy	Difficulty
Pedal Use	Musical Variety
Possible Points this Category	
30	

CATEGORY 2: STYLE & INTERPRETATION	
Tempo	Interpretation
Rhythm	Originality
Articulation & Phrasing	Preparation
Contrast & Dynamics	Musicality
Possible Points this Category	
40	

CATEGORY 3: SHOWMANSHIP	
Stage Presence	Salesmanship/Musical Product
Poise & Command	Applause
Audience Rapport/Handling	
Possible Points this Category	
20	

CATEGORY 4: COSTUME	
Circle one:	Authentic
Costume	Replica
Make-up or Grooming	
Possible Points this Category	
10	

2017 OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

These are the Official Rules for the 2017 edition of the World Championship Old-time Piano Playing Contest and Festival. The “Piano Contest” rules below have been revised, so please read them carefully.

Note: During the Preliminary Eliminations on Saturday, May 27, 2017, Junior and Regular Division contestants play in random order following a drawing.

PIANO CONTEST REGULAR DIVISION

DATES: The two-day competition to determine the 2017 World Champion Old-time Piano Player takes place over Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend each year. The next contest takes place May 27-28, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY: Pianists ages 18 and older are eligible to compete. Pianists of any age will be eligible to compete in the New Rag and Duet contests.

PRELIMINARY ROUND: Contestants must compete in the Preliminary Eliminations (PE's) on Saturday in order to advance to the Semi-Finals and Finals that take place on Sunday afternoon. The PE's will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2017 and continue until each contestant has been heard with a lunch break scheduled about 11:30 a.m.

SEMI-FINALS & FINALS: The Semi-Finals will begin at 1:00 pm on Sunday, May 28, 2017 with up to ten (10) Regular Division contestants who have advanced from Saturday's Preliminary Eliminations. The Semi-Finals will narrow the field of contestants to the final five (5), who will then compete immediately in the Finals to determine the winner and other finishing places.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Contestants need to prepare six different selections written no later than 1939 (no medleys allowed), two of which must be ballads or standard popular songs, and not considered “Ragtime”.

2. The music must be memorized. Two selections are played in the PE's, and each player who advances into the Semi-Finals on Sunday afternoon will play two more selections that meet contest requirements.

3. Contestants must provide the title, composer and year written for all selections to be played on their official entry blank, and must be prepared to document a composition's age if challenged.

4. Contestants may change their selections up until the entry deadline of May 15, 2017, when selections must be finalized and after which date no revisions to the play list may be made.

5. Contestants may play their selections in any order from their list with the exception of those who reach the Finals on Sunday afternoon, during which a “color-theme” tune is required.

6. A contestant failing to provide their playlist by the deadline may re-enter with a late fee if space in the field permits.

7. No religious or patriotic selections are allowed, and vocal or instrumental accompaniment is prohibited.

8. On stage, contestants need provide only the title and composer of their selections prior to their playing although additional information may be requested by the contest MC during their on-stage interview. Composer names must appear on each entry.

9. For the purpose of the World Championship Old-time Piano Playing Contest, the following definition of “old-time” music will apply:

The style of piano playing found primarily in public venues of performance between 1890 and 1939, particularly in bars and piano competitions, consisting of popular songs and instrumentals of that era, including ragtime, traditional jazz, novelty, stride, and boogie, but excluding advanced chord progressions more commonly found by 1940 or later in symphonic, modern jazz and be bop music forms. Selections may also include music idiomatic to solo piano performance and popular dance styles.

2017 THEME: Contestants who advance to the Finals on Sunday afternoon will play two (2) additional selections, one of which must contain a color reference in the title. (Numerous tunes include silver, gold, blue, gray, yellow, amber, brown or green in their titles. Gold, if referring to the metal, wouldn't qualify.) Note that the “theme” does not apply to Junior competitors.

SCORING: Point totals are cumulative. Point totals from the PE's determine contestants for the Semi-Finals. Point totals from the Semi-Finals will be added to the point totals from the PE's to determine the top five (5) players who then advance to the Finals, where point totals will again be combined.

JUDGING CRITERIA: Judges will award points in each round based on technique, style and interpretation, showmanship and costume. In the event of a tie in

points for any place, that contestant with the higher point total in technique will prevail, with the order of other tie-breaking categories to be: style and interpretation, showmanship, and costume.

TIME LIMIT: For the PE's, Semi-Finals and Finals, a total of eight (8) minutes playing time is allowed for each contestant's performance for both tunes (not including time for audience applause, interview time with the emcee, etc.). Contestants exceeding the time limits will be penalized five (5) points for each fifteen (15) seconds or fraction thereof, of overtime.

COSTUME: Costumes are required, and the judges will award points based on their old-time appearance or authenticity in the PE's, Semi-Finals and Finals. Contestants will declare on the entry form whether their costumes are to be judged as authentic period dress (actual or replica) or theatrical performance-type, and they will be judged accordingly.

CHALLENGES: Challenges to a contestant's selection must be made within five (5) minutes after the playing of the selection has been completed. Other contestants, contest officials and judges may challenge selections for age or other reasons. In the event that a selection does not qualify after it is challenged, the person playing it will be disqualified.

CONTESTANT DRAW: Contestants in both the Junior and Regular Divisions will report to our "Green Room" on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. prior to the PE's so lots can be drawn for the order of play, and contestants can receive any last-minute instructions. Contestants not in attendance at this time cannot participate in the contest. (Please note that contestants should bring their costume with them to this drawing for the order of play on Saturday morning as there will not be time to return to the hotel to get them before the first few contestants are scheduled to compete by 9 a.m. For this reason, a complimentary light breakfast will be available in the Green Room on Saturday morning for contestants for their convenience.)

During the actual competitions, if a contestant is not on hand when their playing position is called, the contestant will be considered to have withdrawn from competition. Order of play for the Semi-Finals and Finals will be drawn on stage as soon as practical after completion of judging for that round, respectively.

ENTRY FEE: Each entry form must be accompanied by a \$50 entry fee. This is not refundable unless the contest is canceled.

EXPENSES: The World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest and Festival is not responsible for the cost of travel, meals, lodging or other expenses incurred while competing. University dormitory rooms will be available as a less expensive alternative to a local hotel. These dorm rooms will only be available to contestants ages 18 and older. Please contact Ian Hominick at oldtimepianocontest@olemiss.edu for additional information. The light breakfast in the Green Room on Saturday morning was added for those not staying in a hotel that provides a complimentary breakfast.

CONTESTANT TICKETS: The contest will provide each contestant with one (1) complimentary all-event ticket for their use plus one additional ticket for a guest. Contestants should advise when entering the contest if another ticket is needed.

DEADLINE: The total number of contestants is limited to the first 26 paid entries, and each entry form shall list that contestant's music selections, to be updated no later than May 15, 2017, the contest deadline. Entries will be accepted for up to sixteen (16) Regular Division contestants and Ten (10) Junior Division contestants. After the deadline, any remaining slots will be filled from the waiting list on a first-come basis without regard to Division.

ENTRY SUBMISSION: Entries may be sent via U.S. Mail to the Contest Coordinator, Faye Ballard, 1221 Julie Drive, Champaign, IL 61821. She will also answer rule and contestant questions at this address: eballard@illinois.edu. On line entries will be instantly processed through Paypal and will assure your registration. Mailed entries are subject to delays, and no entry will be considered official until the appropriate fee is received, with checks made out to the University of Mississippi – May Piano Contest. Walk-on entries will be accepted on Saturday, May 28, 2017 until the limit of 26 contestants has been reached or the drawing for order of play has begun, whichever comes first. A late fee of an additional \$50 shall apply to entries received after the deadline of May 15, 2017.

PRIZES: The winner will receive \$1,500, a golden medallion and a permanent trophy. Second place will receive \$1,000 and a silver medallion. Third place will receive \$750 and a bronze medallion. Fourth and fifth places will be awarded cash prizes of \$500 and \$300 respectively, and will also receive bronze medallions. Checks will be mailed to the winners within two weeks of the conclusion of the contest (winners must be sure to complete a W-9 form on site).

ADDITIONAL RULES:

- By competing in the contest, participants agree to allow the use of their photographs and recorded performances to promote the event.
- Disputes arising from the competitions or judging will be resolved by the contest judges, who will make the final decision.
- By entering the competition, the contestant agrees to supply his/her social security number if necessary to comply with United States tax laws.
- Contestants must provide complete information on the contest application including home town media contacts. Each contestant should send 1-2 color photographs (minimum 300 ppi) and a short one-paragraph biography for inclusion in the contest program to Ian Hominick at oldtimepianocontest@olemiss.edu
- The use of alcohol or other controlled substances prior to or during competitions may result in disqualification.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE JUNIOR DIVISION

Note: Junior contestants should also read all of the rules above, as many apply to both divisions!

ELIGIBILITY: Junior contestants are defined as those 17 years of age or under on the day of competition. Any contestant winning the Junior Division a total of three (3) times (not necessarily in consecutive years) may no longer compete in the Junior Division. However, the age requirement will be waived for them, and they may then compete in the Regular Division.

FORMAT: Junior Division contestants play only on Saturday, May 27, and the Junior Division champ will be announced at the close of the Saturday competitions. Each Junior Division contestant must prepare two selections, but are not required to play mandatory standard tunes or comply with the “color theme”, as required in the Regular Division.

PRIZES: The Junior Champion is awarded a prize of \$500 and a permanent trophy. A second place prize of \$400, third place prize of \$300, fourth place prize of \$200 and a fifth place prize of \$100 will be awarded. The Junior Division champion is traditionally invited to make a special appearance Sunday afternoon to play a tune on stage prior to the beginning of the competitions.

TIME LIMIT: A total of eight (8) minutes playing time is allowed for each contestant’s performance of both

their tunes (not including time for audience applause, interview time with the emcee, etc.). The penalty for playing in excess of the time limit prescribed is five (5) points for each 30 seconds, or fraction thereof, of overtime.

ENTRY FEE: The entry fee for the Junior Division is \$25 with a penalty fee for late entry also \$25. This entry fee is not refundable unless the contest is canceled.

PARENTAL CONSENT: Contestants in the Junior Division must have their entry blank signed by a parent or guardian.

NEW RAG CONTEST

ELIGIBILITY: Contestants of any age are eligible to compete.

ENTRY FEE: The entry fee is \$25 and is not refundable unless the contest is canceled.

TIME LIMIT: A five-minute time limit applies from a tune’s start to finish.

PRIZE: The prize for the New Rag Contest shall be \$200 and a trophy.

PERFORMANCE: A competitor may play a composition themselves or designate another piano player to do so for them beginning at 7:00 pm on Friday, May 26, 2017, following a drawing for the order of play. The competition will continue until all have been heard, with the single winner being announced by the judges following the close of the competition.

SPECIFICATIONS: To qualify, the composition entered must be an original Rag, with three or more themes, that has not been previously published, recorded for sale, or previously played in this contest. Composers are limited to one entry per year.

JUDGING: The contest provides qualified judges familiar with the music and capable of judging the composer’s success in writing Ragtime music. Each composition will be judged on originality, musicality and audience appeal. A written score of the music is not required by the judges.

ENTRY DEADLINE: The New Rag Contest is limited to a total of ten (10) competitors. Walk-on entries will be allowed provided there are fewer than 10 advance entries.

ENTRY SUBMISSION: Entries for the New Rag Contest may be sent via U.S. Mail to the Contest Coordinator, Faye Ballard, 1221 Julie Drive, Champaign, IL 61821. She will also answer rule and contestant questions at this address: eballard@illinois.edu. On line entries

will be instantly processed through Paypal and assure registration. Mailed entries are subject to delays, and no entry will be considered official until the appropriate fee is received, with checks made out to the University of Mississippi – May Piano Contest.

DUET CONTEST

The Duet Contest will take place immediately following the completion of the New Rag Contest on Friday evening, May 26, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY: Contestants of any age are eligible to compete.

ENTRY FEE: The entry fee is \$25 for two players competing on two pianos or both on a single piano. This entry fee is not refundable unless the contest is canceled. **NOTE:** An individual may collaborate in only ONE pairing. Limit is 10 pairings for this contest.

TIME LIMIT: A five-minute time limit applies from a tune's start to finish.

PRIZE: The winning pair will receive trophies and 50% of the money paid for entry fees and ballots. The piano contest will retain the other 50% for its operating account.

SPECIFICATIONS: Any tune played must be written prior to 1940.

JUDGING: For a \$5.00 charge, spectators may purchase an official ballot to vote for a single duo. There are no official judges for this event; the audience picks the winner!

ENTRY DEADLINE: Entries will be accepted up until the start of this event if not all ten (10) spots are filled, and the contest may adjust the schedule to allow more entries if warranted.

ENTRY SUBMISSION: Entries for the Duet Contest may be sent via U.S. Mail to the Contest Coordinator, Faye Ballard, 1221 Julie Drive, Champaign, IL 61821. She will also answer rule and contestant questions at this address: eballard@illinois.edu.

On-line entries will be instantly processed through Paypal and assure registration. Mailed entries are subject to delays, and no entry will be considered official until the appropriate fee is received, with checks made out to the University of Mississippi – May Piano Contest.

Entries made on-line or by mail need only name the two piano players on the entry form and need not reveal their musical selection, which will be played on one or two pianos without other instrumental or vocal accompaniment.



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Faye Ballard	John & Linda Harmon	Sharon Nolte	Nancy Smith
Al & Wilma Brons	Noah Harmon	Mary Peters	Merle Sollers
David Busby MD	Robert E. Harrell	Jack & Frances Puckett	Ray Svoboda
L. Jean Dady	Robert Harvey	Joyce Ray	Don & Edna Thompson
Jim & Linda Dening	Donny Hensley	Lee & Mary Lou Remling	Lena Vidahl
Bobbi DePrang	Emil Hirsch	Jeri Rick	Larry & Karen Wade
Rowena Dickey	Patrick Holland	Joan C. Roberts	Harriett Wall
Linda Earleywine	Harley & Melanie Hudson	Cathy Roberts	William Watson
Barbara Flack	John W. Keizer	Roberta M. Robinson	Dale Wells
Steve & Marina Foster	Kenneth Kidd	Mary Ann Robinson	Ellen Wert
Jan Fudge	Lucille & Richard King	Morse Turner	Robert & Beverly Werth
Frank Gremo	Scott & Roma King	Barbara Schuler	Rick Yarian
Ray & Marge Gunther	Louis & Avalene Kruger	Kathy Schuler	Eugene Zeman
William & Alma Hahn	Ted Lemen	Phil Schwimmer	Louis & Margien Zorko, Jr.
Louise Harkiewicz	Ron & Judy Leschewski	Gloria Skarlose	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Contest would like to thank the following individuals and groups for their contribution to this year's event.

The University of Mississippi Department of Music
Visit Oxford
Yoknapatawpha Arts Council
Hon. Pat Patterson, Mayor of Oxford
AMRO Steinway dealership

Kara Giles, Nest Paper Studio
Catherine Davis
Bill DeJournet
Dr. & Mrs. Hubert Spears
Whitman Smith

Thank you to all the student and community volunteers who have made a contribution to this year's Contest.



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

The Contest operates as a non-profit entity through the University of Mississippi Department of Music. A separate budget is not provided for Contest operating expenses. Funds must be generated through ticket sales and grants to go toward prizes & trophies, guest artist & judges' fees, staff hotel, advertising, and a host of other logistical expenses.

If you would like to donate to the Contest to help defray these expenses, please consider donating at one of the following levels.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| \$100 to \$249 | Ragtime Nightingale
Known as the "Lullaby of Ragtime," the Ragtime Nightingale was composed by Joseph Lamb (1887-1960) in 1915 and is one of the most played pieces from the ragtime literature. |
| \$250 - \$499 | Southern Beauty
Originally entitled Lovey Dovey, Charles L. Johnson (1887-1960) composed this lovely ragtime piece in 1907. |
| \$500 - \$749 | Lion Tamer
Subtitled "Syncopated Fantasia," the Lion Tamer Rag was written in 1913 by Mark Janza (1876-1947) and remains a staple of the ragtime catalog. |
| \$750 - \$999 | Finger Buster
The outspoken New Orleans legend Jelly Roll Morton (1890-1941) claimed to have "invented jazz" in 1902. Notwithstanding, he wrote some spectacular works for piano, including Finger Buster in 1937. |
| \$1,000 + | Tickled to Death
Charles Hunter (1876-1906) was a blind pianist from Columbia, Tenn. who composed his first hit rag Tickled to Death in 1899. |

Checks should be made payable to: University of Mississippi May Piano Contest

Mail to: Ian Hominick, UM Department of Music, PO Box 1848, University, MS 38677-1848.

Many thanks for your patronage and support of the ONLY comprehensive competitive event for old-time pianists and for the opportunity you are providing these talented performers!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Old-Time Piano Contest is looking for volunteers from the Oxford-Lafayette community to become involved. If you would like to participate in the planning and design of the 2018 event, please contact Ian Hominick at (662) 915-1282 or by email at oldtimepianocontest@olemiss.edu.

CONTEST PERSONNEL

TED LEMEN, Founder & Emcee
Bradley, Ill.

IAN HOMINICK, Artistic Director & Site Coordinator
Oxford, Miss.

FAYE BALLARD, Contest Coordinator
Champaign, Ill.

JEANNE LIPPINCOTT, Webmaster
Oxford, Miss.

BILL EDWARDS, Historian
Ashburn, Va.

ADAM SWANSON, Co-emcee
Shenandoah, Iowa

BARBARA FLACK, Judging Assistant
Plainfield, Ill.

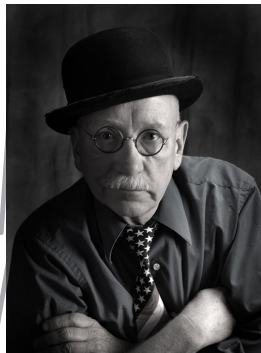
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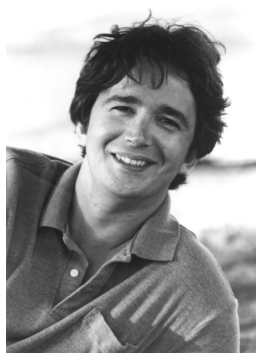
CHARLIE MILES, A/V Technical Dir.
Oxford, Miss.

DIANNE FALKNER, Community Engagement &
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Oxford, Miss.

LARA DAVIS, Advertising/OUC Liason
Oxford, Miss.



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Faye Ballard



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Barbara Flack



Ellen Thomas



Lara Davis



Charlie Miles



Dianne Falkner



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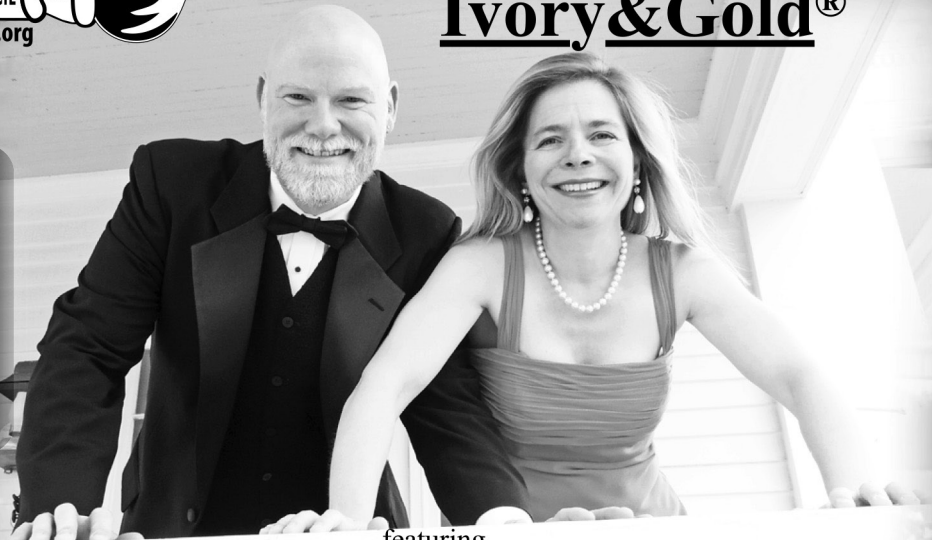
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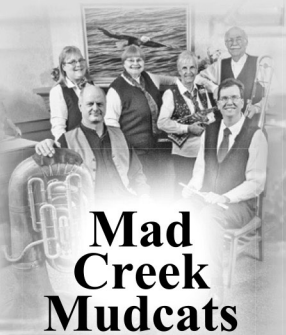


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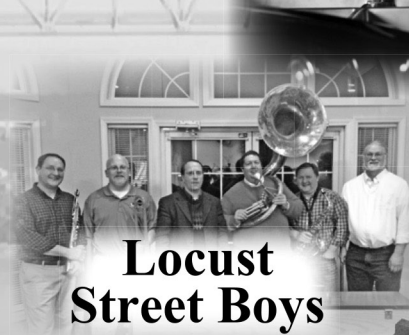
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