

MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND



OXFORD
MISSISSIPPI



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



HOLD-TIME
piano playing



CONTEST AND FESTIVAL



MAY
23★26
2024



50TH
ANNIVERSARY

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 50th anniversary of the Old-Time Piano Playing Contest! This event has undergone several venue moves during its long history before ending up here in Oxford. If you would like to become a patron of this event, please speak with me during the weekend or contact me via the contest e-mail. There is also information in the program on how you may donate online. I hope you have a thoroughly enjoyable time while you are here. What makes this event unique is the element of friendly competition for pianists of all ages. The inclusion of a variety of musical genres such as ragtime, traditional jazz, novelty song, honky-tonk, boogie and blues allows for a wide variety of musical selections.

For this special anniversary year, we have included some very special guests, namely Judy Carmichael and Todd Robbins, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. Total prize money is now at \$10,000! There is also additional variety in the scheduling with several catered affairs with live entertainment that may be purchased as long as seats remain available. We have also reverted to the prior arrangement of including Junior competitors in the all-day playing pool rather than holding a separate Junior Division event.

Take in the hospitality and southern charm that abounds in our community. If you need anything, just ask! Please fill out one of our survey forms in the Nutt Auditorium foyer so we know what you liked and what improvements we might consider for the future. 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.



All of our after-hours events will be held indoors each evening at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center located at the intersection of University Ave. and S. 14th Street ... a straight line from the Music Building. A bar will be available on site each evening as well as our guest artists and competitors. Grab some friends and come out for a relaxing and fun time.

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

Ian Hominick,
Artistic Director



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HISTORY OF THE FESTIVAL

As a fundraiser on Memorial Day in 1975, the Monticello Railway Museum hosted the first of twelve World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest editions that took place in that small town, located about halfway between Champaign and Decatur, Illinois. For eleven 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 IL, and our stay there lasted until our move to Peoria in the late 1990s. We spent two years with the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel after a long stretch at the Hotel Pèrè 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 showed up on a day in 1975 that was hot and sweaty and that 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 had a much bigger audience and the third year, about 600 people 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.



Joybelle Squibb, age 71, 1977



Dorothy M. Herrold, Laporte, Indiana

Our champ for the first two years was Joybelle Squibb, a golf-playing granny from Vandalia IL, but in 1977, Dorothy M. Herrold of LaPorte IN, a retired school teacher who got into playing full-time after her husband died, beat her. Herrold won three times in a row through 1979, 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, the first one held at Shakey's Pizza Parlor in Champaign. Everybody spent the next five 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 afterparties with food service thrown in.

Since 2016, things changed with the contest and all of its events moved from Illinois to Mississippi. Instead of a hotel ballroom for our event, we use a concert hall that's part of the University of Mississippi Department of Music. We hope it was enough fun that you come back next year!

Ted Lemen, Founder



Ted Lemen entertains from the platform of a caboose.



Contest organizers Judy Leschewski and Ted Lemen in the early days with champion Mimi Blais of Montreal

GUEST ARTISTS AND JUDGES

JUDY CARMICHAEL



Grammy nominated pianist/vocalist, Judy Carmichael is one of the world's leading interpreters of stride and swing piano. Count Basie nicknamed her "Stride," acknowledging the command with which she plays this technically and physically demanding jazz piano style. Judy's vocal debut on her CD *Come and Get It* features

her singing everything from Peggy Lee inspired standards, to humorous takes on Fats Waller tunes. Her first all-vocal CD *I Love Being Here With You* followed, which is also her first with someone else playing piano, in this case the great Mike Renzi (who was music director for Mel, Tormé, Tony Bennett, Peggy Lee and *Sesame Street*) with Harry Allen on sax and Jay Leonhart on bass.

America's Jazz Times says: "Judy Carmichael exhibits a truly remarkable ability to channel Peggy Lee's breathy invitingness and her befogged insouciance. Additionally, she echoes the intense perspicacity of the solo albums of Annie Ross. In other words, Judy winningly blends two of the all-time finest, most intuitive jazz singers."

Judy has taken this infectious style of music and her equally infectious personality everywhere from posh nightclubs in Paris and Melbourne to Carnegie Hall and a Rio concert for ten thousand Brazilians; from Arundel Castle (where she opened for Leslie Garrett and the London Philharmonic) to Castle Fraser for the National Trust of Scotland at the behest of longtime fan, Sir Cameron Mackintosh.

Judy's been featured on *A Prairie Home Companion*, NPR's *Morning Edition*, *Entertainment Tonight*, CBS' *Sunday Morning*, CNN's *Business Unusual*, *Mornings With Margaret Throsby* for the Australia Broadcast Corporation, *Jo Soares* in Brazil and the BBC's *Loose Ends*, *In Tune*, *Up All Night*, *Woman's Hour* and numerous other shows.

For 22 years Judy has produced and hosted *Judy Carmichael's Jazz Inspired* which broadcasts on NPR stations across America and podcasts everywhere but Mars, although it might be there too. She has written two books on stride piano and numerous articles about jazz. Her memoir, *Swinger! A Jazz Girl's Adventures From Hollywood To Harlem* was published in January 2018 and her book, *Great Inspirations: 22 Years of Jazz Inspired on NPR* was published in August 2022.

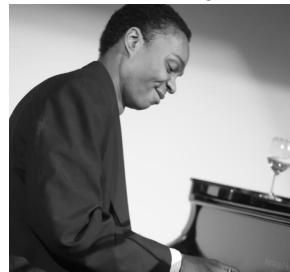
Judy Carmichael is included in *The Encyclopedia of Jazz*, *Madame Jazz: Contemporary Women Instrumentalists*, *Who's Who in the East*, *Who's Who in Finance and Industry in America*, *Who's Who in American Woman*, *American Women in Jazz*, *Who's Who in the World*, as well as the *Encyclopedia of Jazz* and is one of the few jazz pianists honored as a Steinway Artist. She has been included in a number of jazz anthologies and at one point, to her utter surprise, turned up in the Simon and Schuster murder mystery *Murder Times Two* as "the stride pianist Judy Carmichael," the main suspect's favorite piano player.

Judy's recordings, music books, *Swinger!* and *Great Inspirations* are available at www.judycarmichael.com or by mail order through C&D Productions, P.O. Box 360 Sag Harbor, New York, 11963. www.jazzinspired.com

Judy Carmichael is a great entertainer. Her playing is masterly and her linking material show her to be a raconteur in the Ustinov mold.

— Jonathan James Moore BBC Radio

BILL PERRY, JR.



Bill Perry, Jr. is currently performing in various bands and music projects, as well as teaching jazz improvisation for private lessons in Oxford, MS. His hip hop jazz trio, Bill Perry Trio, is currently performing at many events and club dates throughout

the state of Mississippi. His trio has been featured many times on Memphis television and Perry also performed in a music showcase for Cassandra Wilson's record label, Ojah Media Group, at B.B. King's Club in Manhattan, New York. He has been actively producing full-length albums since 2010 such as *Language of the Cosmos* (solo piano), *Beyond the Darkness* (Bill Perry Trio), and *Phantom* (solo piano).

Bill Perry Jr. has been performing music professionally since 1993. Starting out as a rapper AKA Bill Mysteryo), Perry created & produced his own hip-hop music, which led him to jazz piano. He has been featured on BET Jazz twice & in syndication on BET's *Jazz Visions*. As a rapper, he has opened for Ghostface Killah & Snoop Dog! As a pianist, he has played in various countries such as Hong Kong, Indonesia, as well as in Africa & Canada. Perry has also worked as a disc jockey and program director at radio stations in Mississippi.

He has played in every major Blues & Jazz festival in Mississippi, and has played New York's premier blues club Terra Blues with his father, legendary blues musician Bill "Howl-N-Madd" Perry. Perry, his father, & his sister Sharo Perry are featured on a Blues Trail Marker in Oxford, MS for their contributions to the music world in the south & beyond. The Perry family also performed at the Lincoln Center in Manhattan, NY in 2012 for a documentary based on blues musicians from Mississippi called *True Delta*, directed by Lee Quinby. Perry has also written a 6-part music essay called *The Modern Day Musician* which details Perry's philosophy about being a professional musician in modern times, and how to maintain integrity and spiritualism with music. Mixing various styles and influences into his musical mix, Bill Perry is the epitome of the hybrid modern-day musician!

TODD ROBBINS



Todd Robbins is an award-winning performer and creative artist that has worked in many areas of popular entertainment and the performing arts during a long career.

Todd has been on more than 200 TV shows, and recently was seen hosting his *True Nightmares* TV series for the Investigation Discovery Channel. As an authority in many areas of arcane popular culture, Todd has been called upon to be a talking head on many TV programs, and to provide commentary on the DVDs of Tod Browning's *Freaks* and the 1947 noir classic *Nightmare Alley*.

Classically trained as an actor at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, he has put his performing abilities to good use in the two Drama Desk nominated theater pieces that he created for off-Broadway. The first one, *Carnival Knowledge*, was a behind the scenes look at the world of the American sideshow and chronicled his experiences working in places like Coney Island. The second show was *Play Dead*, which he wrote with Teller (of Penn & Teller). Teller also directed this acclaimed production. Todd reprised his role in *Play Dead* at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, and also created and starred in *The Charlatan's Séance* at the Two River Theatre in Red Bank, NJ. Most recently, Todd just finished an extended run at the SoHo Playhouse of his controversial necromantic show, *Haunt Quest* and Todd can currently be seen hosting *Speakeasy Magic*, a show he created that

features an ensemble of the best close-up magicians in NYC, now in its sixth year of performances.

Todd's podcast *Abnormalcy* features Todd telling true twisted stories of murder and mayhem. For more about this go to abnormalcypodcast.com, and for more information about Todd, go to toddrobbins.com.

ADAM SWANSON



Adam Swanson is one of the world's foremost pianists and historians of vintage American popular music, including ragtime, early jazz, the Great American Songbook, and more. Adam has been a featured performer and lecturer at ragtime and jazz festivals across the United States and abroad, and he is the

only four-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. He made his New York debut in Carnegie Hall at the age of nineteen, where he performed with Michael Feinstein. Adam appeared alongside pianist John Arpin at the Bohem Ragtime and Jazz Festival in the Republic of Hungary, and he has also toured Switzerland and Australia. Adam has accompanied silent films at the prestigious Cinecon Classic Film Festival at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood and performed privately for Oscar-winning Disney/Hollywood composer Richard M. Sherman (*Mary Poppins*, etc.). At the age of twenty-one, Adam performed a solo concert at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington, D.C.

Adam holds a bachelor's degree in classical piano and a master's in musicology from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. He has been mentored by other ragtime artists including the famed Max Morath and legendary 1950s recording artist Johnny Maddox, who was one of Adam's greatest influences. Adam has recorded albums with noted musicians such as former rock star Ian Whitcomb, the Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra, and the Bar D Wranglers, a classic western band. Adam's recordings have been used on the CBC TV show *Murdoch Mysteries*. He lives in Durango, Colorado, where he frequently performs in the Diamond Belle Saloon at the Historic Strater Hotel. Listen to Adam's livestream virtual concerts on his Facebook page and YouTube channel.

2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 23rd

7:30 pm	Judy Carmichael & Larry Koonse in Concert
9:00 pm	Post-Concert Party at The Mad Hatter on the Oxford Square

FRIDAY, MAY 24th

9:00 am	Judy Carmichael Presentation (with Larry Koonse, guitar)
10:30 am	Trolley Tour of Oxford
12:00 pm	<i>Mexican Luncheon</i> at the Powerhouse with live music by 2023 Champion Paul Orsi
2:00 pm	Todd Robbins Presentation: <i>So the Story Goes: The Surprising Tales Behind American Popular Music</i>
3:00 pm	Ian Hominick Presentation: <i>Wild About Jazz: Earl Wild's Excursion on the 'Dark Side'</i>
6:00 pm	New Rag Contest
8:00 pm	AFTERHOURS – Tune-Ups at the Powerhouse Party until 11:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 25th

8:00 am	Contestant Draw for Playing Order
9:00 am	Preliminary Round for Junior, Regular & Senior Divisions
11:45 am	Silent Movie Box Lunch with Adam Swanson in UM Band Hall
1:00 pm	Regular & Senior Division Preliminary Round continues ...
6:00 pm	<i>Southern Catfish Dinner</i> with live music by 3-time Senior Champion Bobby van Deusen – Powerhouse
7:30 pm	AFTERHOURS – <i>An Hour with Ted Lemen</i> – Powerhouse*
8:30 pm	AFTERHOURS – <i>Old-Time Sing-Along</i> with Jamie Shannon – Powerhouse*
9:15 pm	AFTERHOURS – <i>Dr Warren Ertle and the Corpse Revivers</i> – Powerhouse*
10:00 pm	AFTERHOURS – Pianists scheduled until 11 pm – Powerhouse

SUNDAY, MAY 26th

11:00 am	Gospel Rag Service with Bobby van Deusen – OU United Methodist Church
1:00 pm	Semi-finals, Seniors Final & Finals
7:00 pm	AFTERHOURS – Red, White & Blue Finale * <i>Memorial Day Tribute</i> – free admission for veterans – Powerhouse

Concessions available in the Music Building but no food or drink permitted in Nutt Auditorium.

Bar available each evening at the Powerhouse Arts Center

2024 Contest T-Shirts, merchandise, and performer CD's available for sale in the hallway.





SATURDAY SHOWCASE



An Hour with Ted Lemen ... before he's gone!

Saturday, May 25th

Powerhouse – 7:30 pm

Featuring contest founder Ted Lemen in a presentation of his favorite music and stories to highlight his life as a self-taught piano player amid a world of trained professionals. The show will reveal how he got to play coast-to-coast on Amtrak's Transcontinental Steam Excursion in 1977, competed in the Great Piano Marathon in Bloomington, Illinois, which led to many years playing at Shakey's Pizza Parlor—and his multi-year stint as the piano player on the Spirit of Peoria riverboat. In addition to starting the piano contest, he also founded the Monticello Railway Museum, which will soon begin its 52nd year operating restored, full-size trains for the public, and which first hosted the contest to attract riders. A fixture at the piano contest for nearly five decades, he is not limited to vintage music, but has written dozens of songs about life, Chicago, love, and trains, some of which he will share. He also won the New Rag Contest twice and produced the late Marty Sammon's popular Blues Flings in the Chicago area for nine years until Sammon's untimely passing in 2022.



Old-Time Sing-Along with Jamie Shannon

Saturday, May 25th

Powerhouse – 8:30

Grab a songbook and sing along with Jamie Shannon to some of the memorable old classic songs such as Alexander's Ragtime Band, Tea for Two, My Blue Heaven and many more.



Dr. Warren Ertle and the Corpse Revivers

Saturday, May 25th

Powerhouse – 9:15

Dr. Warren Ertle's Corpse Revivers (formerly "Hot Peppers") is an authentic eight-piece "hot jazz" band comprised of all-star musicians from Mississippi and Alabama. The band is committed to providing authentic performances of 1920s-1930s jazz, including Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Bix Beiderbecke, Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, and many others.

The band is led by award-winning composer and ragtime pianist, Dr. Warren Ertle. The Tuscaloosa-based musician and Mississippi native is an avid performer of ragtime and stride piano music as well as an active composer and arranger. Ertle's passion for both early jazz and the American "Jazz Age" help to ensure that the band looks and sounds as if it stepped right out of the vintage recordings that it recreates. The band employs the traditional "three horn front" (clarinet, trumpet, trombone) of the original "Dixieland" bands, a myriad of vintage instruments, microphones, accessories, and principal vocalist, Jamie Shannon.



CONTESTANT PROFILES



Faye Ballard has been a part of the contest since she was twelve, and competed against its first champion, Joybelle Squibb. Faye first became interested in ragtime music at age ten after hearing Les Cripe, pianist for the Harry

James band, playing sing-along at a Shakey's Pizza Parlor in Decatur, Illinois.

When not playing ragtime for local shows and nursing homes, Faye enjoys playing piano and organizing special music at her church. She also enjoys watching University of Illinois sports with her mother and spending time with her cat, Eva "Meow" Ballard.

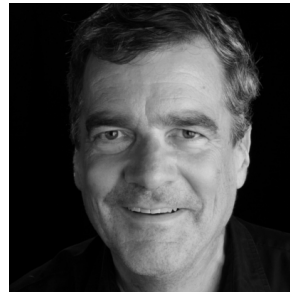


Andrew Barrett is from a musical family and grew up in New York, New Jersey, and California, hearing traditional jazz, swing, and ragtime music since birth. Both his father and uncle are professional jazz musicians

and nearly every other immediate family member plays, or played, a musical instrument at some point. He is currently a professional musician active in the Orange County and Los Angeles County areas of California, has been on the trad. jazz scene since 1998 and has been on the ragtime scene since 2001. He has also played in local rock and bossa nova bands as a keyboardist and percussionist. To help improve his own and friends' piano styles, he has been enjoying and seriously studying the real sounds of vintage pop music, salon music, ragtime, and jazz from original era recordings and music rolls, for decades, and also trying to share these riches with the world via pianist-playlists compiled on his YouTube channel "Great Pianists".

Andrew's main other hobby is researching and collecting automatic musical instruments, such as player pianos, orchestrions, band organs, and music boxes; and also is interested in and researches/collects reed organs and theatre pipe organs. He is a member of

AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association), ATOS (American Theatre Organ Society), COAA (Carousel Organ Association of America), MBSI (Musical Box Society International), and ROS (The Reed Organ Society), and hopes that some of the people who read this, will each go save a great old piano, player piano, reed organ or pipe organ from the dump (since way too many are junked every day, of our fast-dwindling original supply), and restore it and give it some love so current and future generations can enjoy the music!



Tim Barton hails from the "windy city" Chicago, the home of the blues. Tim is playing in his third World Championship Old Time Piano Contest. Having won the Senior Division 2nd prize in both 2023 and 2020, he is happy to play again!

His solo piano show "Rhapsody in Chicago Blues" continues to be successful around the world at the Adelaide, Edinburgh, Finland and Estonia Fringes. Tim loves camping, travel, building websites and volunteer work.



John Beggs is from Madison Florida. He plays piano and bass and he sings. John studies classical music but enjoys playing other genres. Old-time music, particularly stride, has long been a favorite of his.

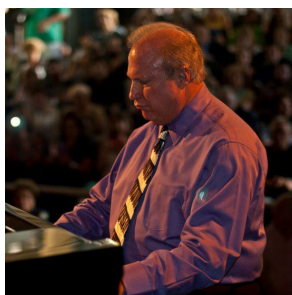
John plays gigs around the area at private parties, restaurants, civic events, retirement centers and gives concerts. He plays regularly and sings at the Madison First Methodist Church. He is also a member of the Tallahassee Homeschool String Orchestra and a member of a band called The Walk which plays for events around the Tallahassee area. John has played in the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest three times before in 2019, 2022, and 2023. John is a junior in high school and plans to study music in college, and he is excited to see how God will use him in the near (and distant!) future.



David Cavalari is a former professional musician who is now a professional software engineer and casual musician.

Highlights of his former career include playing piano outside Denali

National Park for several summers and being the accompanist for a melodrama show in Cripple Creek, CO. He has won the New Rag Contest twice and has been a finalist in the regular division several times, and is thrilled to be back after taking several years off to become a dad! Raising a child has been difficult, but he has managed to work in time to practice and even sleep sometimes. This will be David's first time performing in public since 2019, and he assures you he is not even the slightest bit nervous about this.



Brooks Christensen is originally from St. Joseph, Missouri where his piano career started at age 6. He discovered ragtime while taking piano lessons at the age of 12 when the movie "The Sting" was a hit.

Soon it was all over for "the classics" and he started concentrating on playing ragtime. During the late 70's and early 1980's Brooks played ragtime piano in various piano bars in the Country Club Plaza area of Kansas City and in other cities around the country. His ragtime adventures included playing with the likes of Jo Ann Castle, Terry Waldo and Ragtime Bob Darch. He also performed at some of the early Scott Joplin Festivals. This past year he performed at the Scott Joplin Festival in Sedalia Missouri and the Wine Country Ragtime festival in Sonoma and Napa. He recently returned from performing at the second Buenos Aires Ragtime Festival.

Brooks currently resides in Humble Texas, (near Houston) and enjoys playing ragtime piano with the San Antonio & Houston Ragtime Societies. He and his wife Carmen also enjoy hosting house

concerts for their musical friends. He is the President and owner of Monk Engineering Inc. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, attending sporting events and traveling to Ragtime festivals.



Michael Drexler is an award-winning pianist and music producer with two Grammy nominations to his name. Born in Munich (Germany) Michael had his first piano lesson at age seven. As an eight-year old Michael was chosen for a

TV show as a singer and subsequently performed on television, radio and appeared on various recordings throughout Europe.

Michael fell in love with ragtime, blues, and jazz music after attending his first jam session at age twelve. He graduated from Berklee College of Music with a degree in jazz piano performance and finished his master's degree in music production & piano performance at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold (Germany). A few years ago, Michael rediscovered his love for ragtime and boogie-woogie and subsequently won medals here in Oxford, winning 5th place in 2016 and 3rd place in 2019. Michael currently performs at boogie-woogie and ragtime festivals in the USA and in Austria.



Bill Edwards has been a part of this competition as both contestant and sometimes organizer/board member since 1987. He has finished in the top five more than 20 times over the years, and was the 1991 champion. All efforts to

force him into retirement have failed to date. Bill also spends copious time growing his website of 25 years that is focused on ragtime history and performance. He has amassed a library of over 40 albums of his performances, and in 2016 was awarded the lifetime achievement award by the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival, which still does not get him into country clubs, but remains a great honor. A proponent of all things old-time, his



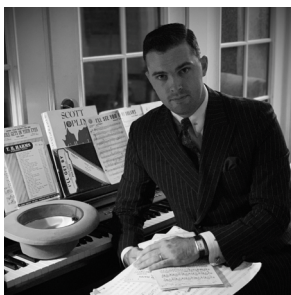
perspicacity and other general ailments help him to continue a proud tradition of both participating in these events and mentoring younger performers who want to take him down a notch, respectfully, of course.



Kent Ellingson is a highly respected and sought-after pianist in the Dallas/Fort Worth music scene. He has been a featured pianist at the Sammons Jazz Society and the Dallas Jazz Piano Society yearly concert series,

and has performed in concert with Randy Brecker, Clark Terry, Ingrid Jenson, Phil Woods, and other jazz notables. Currently, he leads his own jazz group, the K. Ellingson Group, which performs regularly at clubs, festivals, and concerts. He also plays solo piano two to three nights a week at a high-end Dallas restaurant.

Kent retired after thirty-one years as a full-time music instructor at Dallas' Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts but continues to teach applied jazz piano courses at Collin College and Dallas College Eastfield. He is also pianist for both faculty jazz combos and participates yearly at the Collin College summer jazz camp as faculty pianist and jazz instructor.



Warren Ertle is an award-winning composer, bandleader, and pianist based in Tuscaloosa, AL. He is a winner of the 2022 New Rag Contest and a two-time regular division finalist at the World

Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival. Considered an expert on the music of the Ragtime Era and Jazz Age, Ertle performs regularly as a soloist, in the duo Yellow Cocktail Music with vocalist Jamie Shannon, and is the bandleader of authentic 1920s-1930s

jazz band, Dr. Warren Ertle's Corpse Revivers. Ertle holds degrees in composition from Mississippi College, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and The University of Alabama, and his music has been performed nationally and internationally by The Shoals Symphony, The Mississippi Symphony String Quartet, Boston Conservatory Chorale, and more. Ertle remains an active sideman and has performed with the 215th Army Band, John Clark, Kimberly Hawkey, Dan Gabel, Arnt Arntzen, Vince Giordano and more.



Billy Fang grew up in West Virginia where he learned classical piano and violin. He became interested in stride piano and the Great American Songbook after hearing recordings by Art Tatum and Fats Waller, as well as soundtracks

from films like Manhattan, Café Society, and Midnight in Paris. Despite being a newcomer to the genre, he was inspired to enter this year's contest after watching previous years' recordings on YouTube. Billy is currently a data scientist in Silicon Valley.



Inventive stride, swing and blues pianist, **Jean-Baptiste Franc** created his own style by mixing melodic improvisation and stride. A self-taught musician, he was helped by his father, Olivier Franc, and his influences are Donald Lambert, James P.

Johnson, Fats Waller and Sidney Bechet. In 2001, he had the chance to play with Fats Waller's guitarist, Al Casey who nicknamed him "Little Fats".

Jean-Baptiste has received the support of such pianists as Monty Alexander and Junior Mance for his CD recorded with Count Basie's drummer, Duffy Jackson. With his father, the Olivier Franc's Tribute to Bechet Band played in such places as Dresden and Frankfurt opera and Olympia Theatre in Paris in 2015 and Victoria Hall in Geneva in 2019. With his father, the Oliver Franc's Tribute to Bechet Band played in such places as the Dresden and Frankfurt Opera and Olympia Theatre in Paris in 2015.



Masayoshi Goto is a Japanese jazz piano instructor and performer. He graduated from the Jazz Department of City College of New York. After graduation, Masayoshi returned to Japan and is

based in the Iwate Prefecture, where he mainly performs concerts and gives lessons outside of the prefecture.



Alexander Hutchinson, of Rockingham, NC just celebrated his fourteenth birthday. He is a ninth grade student at Seelight Education Academy. In addition to playing the piano, Alex's favorite

activities include nearly anything involving technology and mechanics. He especially enjoys 3-D printing things for his friends and family. Alex will be attending Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, this summer. Reading, competitive gymnastics, and minor league baseball are also among his favorite activities. He works as a church pianist in his home county.

In 2019, Alex was a finalist in the concerto competition at the St. Petersburg, Russia, Piano in Palace Festival. Last year, Alex attended both Palmetto International Piano Festival in Due West, South Carolina and the Summer Music Camp at UNC-Greensboro. He also placed third in the Junior Division of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest in Oxford, Mississippi.



Evelyn Hutchinson is eleven-years-old and lives in Rockingham, NC. She is a fifth grader at Seelight Education Academy. In addition to playing piano, Evelyn has studied dance

for approximately nine years and has won awards for both her solo and team dance performances. She loves attending dance workshops from New York to Orlando. Her other hobbies include swimming, reading, and caring for pets. Her family's cats and reptiles are her favorites.

Evelyn has listened to her brothers playing ragtime piano since birth. She has enjoyed the World Championship Old-Time Piano Competition since the 2021 virtual event and is excited to take the stage herself this year.



John Patrick Hutchinson, Jr. is twelve years old, and is from North Carolina. He attends Seelight Education Academy, where he is in seventh grade. In addition to playing the piano, his favorite activities are playing soccer, playing the French

Horn, and searching for geocaches. He began taking piano lessons in 2014. Since then, he has performed in recitals, competitions, and for church services.

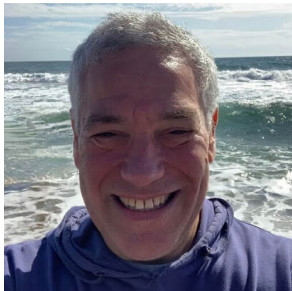
In 2018, he won second place in his age division at The Southern Pines Young Musicians' Festival in North Carolina. He also received an honorable mention in the Steinway Young Artist Piano Competition in Charlotte, North Carolina that same year. In 2019, he won his age division at The Southern Pines Young Musicians' Festival in North Carolina. John Patrick, along with his brother Alex, attended the Piano in Palace International Piano Festival In St. Petersburg, Russia. He performed in solo piano recitals at the House of the Composers, and the famous Marble Palace Concert Hall. He also performed a Concerto with the St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra, conducted by the assistant conductor of the Moscow Philharmonic.



Daniel Judd's parents always had a piano in the house and made sure that they all had lessons. He started lessons in third grade but then dropped it starting high school. His father agreed to buy a portable

keyboard if he learned *The Entertainer* by Scott Joplin. His passion for the piano never diminished after that point and he ended up with a Masters in Piano Performance from DePaul University in Chicago.

Also possessing a passion for mathematics, Daniel liked the idea of more easily supporting a family so he became an actuary. Having retired, this competition has provided an impetus to hone his piano skill to more polished pieces. Daniel is married with four children, ages 19 through 36 and has lived throughout the country, as far North as Green Bay, Wisconsin and as far South as New Orleans, Louisiana, as far East as Worcester Massachusetts and as far West as Omaha Nebraska. Currently he live in Chicago, Illinois.



Michael Kazenel spends evenings and weekends at the piano, crafting ragtime melodies that he finds tuneful and pleasing, and weaving them into ragtime compositions.

By day, Michael enjoys his work as a designer at MathWorks, a Boston-based computer company, and also finds great fulfillment tutoring high school students in physics, chemistry, and math. Michael also jogs, does the daily Wordle and New York Times crossword puzzle, and, with his wife, keeps up with their three grown-up children.



From Staffordshire, Great Britain, **Tom Lakeland** has travelled to Oxford, MS to enter his own composition in the New Rag Contest. Playing and writing ragtime occupies a core interest of his, together

with researching the life and music of Missouri musician Charles L. Johnson. Tom can claim the most unique and comprehensive collection of this composer's works outside of the U.S.A.



Max Libertor was born and raised in the suburbs of Los Angeles, California. One of five children, he showed a very early love for music. Max had some traditional piano lessons at a very early age, but stopped when he was twelve years old. During the pandemic,

his love for music was reignited when he discovered Tom Brier's modernistic and difficult ragtime compositions. He started teaching himself Brier's music.

This "new ragtime hobby" lasted long past the pandemic. In 2023, he was honored as the Ragtime Kid at the renowned Scott Joplin Festival in Sedalia, Missouri. Max has since performed at festivals such as the Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival and the West Coast Ragtime Festival. Max is not only a performer, but also a composer, arranger, and multi-instrumentalist. He plays trumpet in the high school concert and jazz band and explores many other instruments in his free time.



Zach Mandernach is thrilled to be part of the 50th annual World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. In addition to studying old-time piano playing, Zach serves as a Music Director for theaters all over Long Island, and is very much in demand as

an accompanist for theater and opera. Recent credits include Music Director/Pianist/Conductor for *Parade* at The Cultural Arts Playhouse, and *Sweeney Todd* at the Merrick Theatre. A lover of all kinds of "early music" he enjoys playing baroque and classical music on the harpsichord and fortepiano; and absolutely loves playing old gospel and blues. Zach is looking forward to his first Old-Time Contest and can't wait to meet all the contestants.



Jeremie Michael has the unique privilege of being the ragtime pianist at Disney World's Casey's Corner. Starting as a student of classical piano, Jeremie Michael began his career as a "child prodigy" with

frequent solo appearances with San Francisco Symphony and other major orchestras across the U.S. Jeremie went on to study at Juilliard, and holds 2¾ Masters' degrees from Florida State and Eastern Kentucky University. He was the final music director with the Off-Broadway production of *The Fantasticks*. While in NYC, he was also a musician on Broadway, and when he wasn't down in the pits (!), he was a nightly cabaret and piano bar (ir) regular. Currently living in sunny Florida with his wife and daughter, he has kept busy at Disney World performing on multiple stages, including Casey's Corner at Magic Kingdom, annual festivals at EPCOT, and the Hoop Dee Doo Musical Revue.



Dan Mouyard taught himself to play the Maple Leaf Rag at age 14 and immediately got hooked on ragtime. After taking a few years of piano lessons in high school, he later graduated from

Dickinson College with degrees in Physics and Music Composition. In 1996, Dan won the Junior Division of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. He won the New Rag Contest in 2000 and went on to win the Regular Division title in both 2001 and 2003. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Dan now lives in Bethesda, MD with his wife and kids.



Paul Orsi, a ragtime pianist and composer, brings a unique high-energy style to America's first popular music. From a young age, Paul has performed professionally in many venues, including Shakey's Pizza Parlors, Clearman's Northwood's Inn,

and most notably, a 10 year engagement as a Disneyland Coke Corner pianist. A two-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest, Paul is back this year to defend his title.

Paul earned his Master's Degree in music composition from UC Riverside. His "street" education comes from personal interaction for over 40 years with many notable ragtime performers: Dick Zimmerman, Max Morath, Eubie Blake, Sally Stanford, Rod Miller, Judy Carmichael, Johnny Hodges, Jim Omohundro, Jim Hession, Frederick Hodges, Tom Brier, Stephanie Trick, Paulo Alderighi, Julie McClarey and Adam Swanson to name a few. Paul attributes much of his stylistic flair to these exceptional musicians and honors their legacy through his playing.



Anderson Pries started playing piano at the age of five and fell in love with ragtime. He has played most of Scott Joplin's works and enjoys performing his own variations of them. He also enjoys playing jazz piano and has earned many awards including

the "Outstanding Soloist" award at the 2023 "Music In The Parks" festival, induction to the Illinois Music Educators' Association (ILMEA) Honors Jazz Band, and acceptance into the University of Illinois Summer Music Program's top jazz band. Anderson also serves as an accompanist for local musicians and choirs in his hometown of Homewood, Illinois. Another interest of Anderson's is railroading; he is active in several "railfan" associations. Anderson is excited to make his ragtime debut at this contest and would like to thank his family for their unwavering support. He would also like to thank his piano teacher, Justin DeAngelo, for his expert instruction.



Leo Rainey is a 17-year-old hailing from Durham, North Carolina. He has been playing piano for almost a decade and first fell in love with ragtime piano when a friend played him *The Entertainer* in middle school. In the years since, Leo has explored other Joplin pieces, played with other genres of the era, and has been intrigued by the history and culture of America's piano music. When he's not picking out tunes on the piano, Leo enjoys reading the classics, acting on stage, and is into sci-fi TV and film. He would like to thank his parents, Claire and Dave, for always supporting his love of music, as well as his brother, Jesse, who often puts up with him.



Damit Senanayake first heard ragtime when he was 11-years-old in Singapore and his first public performance of ragtime was during his undergraduate studies in Singapore, where he performed "Maple Leaf Rag" and "Peacherine Rag" in two public concerts. Both performances were well-received by the audience. Damit first took part in the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest in 2011, when it was held in Peoria, IL, and has taken part several times since. He is excited to be back on stage performing in Oxford!



Caleb Smith, from Farmington, Connecticut is not a pianist, rather, a violist who loves keyboard music. He studied classical strings in public school and later privately and became interested in ragtime in middle school,

after seeing videos on YouTube by Tom Brier and others. Caleb started dabbling in piano around age 13, and was encouraged to play classic rags by Scott Joplin, Joseph Lamb, etc. Playing keyboard music would come slowly as he lacked music theory training or private instruction. Caleb played mainly by ear and by imitating synthesia piano keys. Despite his great interest in the genre, he didn't pursue a jazz major in college. He only started formal piano lessons this past summer with Matt DeChamplain at The Hartt School, after taking classes with keyboard professor Greg Babal. In 2020, Caleb discovered that he was the great-grandson of ragtime songwriter, C.W. O'Connor, co-author of 'Down the Field' march.



Diana Stein-Kabakoff has been playing piano all her life and has been earning a living with it for about 35 years. She is especially trained in the "classics", but acquired a taste for rag-time and stride while in her 40's. She also had an opportunity to play for Stevie Wonder at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis a few years ago. She has loved blues since her early 20's and she & her hubby (on harmonica) come together as the "D&G Boogie Blues Duo." Diana plays piano for St. Jude Children's Hospital and plays at B.B. King's on Beale Street.



Paul Stewart has had a long time interest in piano Ragtime music. He has presented Ragtime concerts, workshops, lecture recitals and performances in a variety of venues throughout the U.S. and in Europe. This past spring, he performed a program at High Point University and at the Ambleside Art Gallery, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Paul was a finalist in the 2022 World Championship Old-Time Piano-Playing Contest at The University of Mississippi. He will perform at the 2024 Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival's 50th Anniversary in Sedalia, Missouri. His ragtime CD is titled "Rhythm and Rags." His favorite mantra is, "You

don't stop playing the piano because you get old. You get old because you stop playing the piano."



Jared Szabo, a Southern California native, is a relative newcomer to piano playing and composing. He was first introduced to ragtime in 2021 by way of his electronic keyboard which had "The

Entertainer" as one of its sample songs. Jared learned to play that simplified version of "The Entertainer" and has been enamored with the ragtime style ever since. In addition to playing rags (no more simplified versions now!), he also has been composing his own rags, which have received the attention of some prominent modern-day ragtime enthusiasts. Jared had the pleasure of attending the 2023 Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival, which cemented his love for ragtime and gave him opportunities to meet and play for other ragtime enthusiasts.

In addition to playing and composing ragtime, Jared enjoys transcribing scans of old sheet music to post on his MuseScore account, discovering new rags from fellow composers, and reading about the history of ragtime. Outside of ragtime, he enjoys camping and other outdoor activities with his Trail Life troop, volunteer work, and participating in his teen discipleship group at church.



Larry Wade served as a music teacher for forty-five years for grades K-14. He was on the Contest board for fifteen years and has formerly been a judge for the contest.

Larry was a church musician for sixty-two years playing the piano and organ and directing the choir. He has a Masters degree in piano and vocal performance and has been married for forty years with two sons and

two grandchildren. Larry's youngest son is in the Air Force currently serving in Japan and the oldest son is a professional musician who is a former Junior Champion of the contest.



Tom Wegren began playing the piano at age three-and-a-half. His music education includes a Bachelor of Music at DePaul University, Master of Arts and Ph.D. at The Ohio State University, as well as postdoctoral work at The

Juilliard School and the Paris Conservatoire. His musical career encompasses teaching, performance, and composition. He is Music Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and has appeared as guest soloist with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Pusan Philharmonic Orchestra (South Korea), Rochester Symphony (MN), and The Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra. Tom has also studied composition with Nadia Boulanger.

His most recent piano composition is BLAZE. It is dedicated to his family and Golden Retriever pup, Kabuzz. The song is playful and highly energetic. It is written in Ragtime style with an added Postlude featuring a musical quote from The Entertainer as a tribute to the "King of Ragtime" - Scott Joplin. Tom's artistic mantra is - Always keep music in your heart!



2022 Senior Champion Bobby van Deusen

REGULAR DIVISION PRELIMINARY ELIMINATIONS SCORECARD

The order of play will be determined by drawing at 8:00 Saturday morning & 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 22-25.

1. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

7. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

2. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

8. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

3. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

9. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

4. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

10. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

5. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

11. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

6. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

12. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____



REGULAR DIVISION 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: _____

REGULAR DIVISION 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

I. TECHNIQUE

FINGER DEXTERITY
 NOTE ACCURACY
 PEDAL USE
 KEYBOARD COVERAGE
 DIFFICULTY
 MUSICAL VARIETY

possible pts this category: 30

II. STYLE /INTERPRETATION

TEMPO RHYTHM
 ORIGINALITY MUSICALITY
 ARTICULATION & PHRASING
 CONTRAST & DYNAMICS
 INTERPRETATION
 PREPARATION

possible pts this category: 40

III. SHOWMANSHIP

STAGE PRESENCE
 POISE & COMMAND
 AUDIENCE RAPPORT
 SALESMANSHIP
 MUSICAL PRODUCT
 APPLAUSE

possible pts this category: 20

IV. COSTUME

AUTHENTIC or REPLICA
 (circle one)
 COSTUME
 MAKEUP/GROOMING

possible pts this category: 10

SENIOR DIVISION SCORECARD

1. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

5. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

2. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

6. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

3. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

7. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

4. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____

8. Name: _____

#1: _____

#2: _____

Points: _____



(above) Judy Leschewski and our third three-time champion, Ron Trotta, who later became the musical TV weatherman in New York City.
(left) We start them out young at the piano contest. Junior Division contestants only need the front half of the piano bench for their starring moment.

JUNIOR DIVISION SCORECARD

1. Name: _____ 4. Name: _____ 7. Name: _____

#1: _____ #1: _____ #1: _____

#2: _____ #2: _____ #2: _____

points: _____ points: _____ points: _____

2. Name: _____ 5. Name: _____ 8. Name: _____

#1: _____ #1: _____ #1: _____

#2: _____ #2: _____ #2: _____

points: _____ points: _____ points: _____

3. Name: _____ 6. Name: _____ 9. Name: _____

#1: _____ #1: _____ #1: _____

#2: _____ #2: _____ #2: _____

points: _____ points: _____ points: _____

NEW RAG SCORECARD

1. Name: _____ 6. Name: _____

Tune: _____ Tune: _____

Points: _____ Points: _____

2. Name: _____ 7. Name: _____

Tune: _____ Tune: _____

Points: _____ Points: _____

3. Name: _____ 8. Name: _____

Tune: _____ Tune: _____

Points: _____ Points: _____

4. Name: _____ 9. Name: _____

Tune: _____ Tune: _____

Points: _____ Points: _____

5. Name: _____ 10. Name: _____

Tune: _____ Tune: _____

Points: _____ Points: _____



2024 OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

These are the Official Rules for the 2024 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: On Saturday, May 25, 2024, all contestants must draw for playing order at 8:00 a.m. in Rm. #153 of the Music Building.

PIANO CONTEST REGULAR DIVISION

DATES: The two-day competition to determine the World Champion Old-time Piano Player takes place over Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend each year. Although festival events begin on May 23, the actual contest dates are May 25-26, 2024.

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 and continue until each contestant has been heard, with a lunch break scheduled about 11:30 a.m.

SEMI-FINALS & FINALS: Those advancing to the semi-finals will be announced on-stage at the conclusion of Saturday's Preliminary Round. An immediate drawing will take place to determine playing position for Sunday's Semi-final Round. The Semi-Finals will begin at 1:30 pm on Sunday 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 five (5) different selections written no later than 1939 (no medleys allowed), one of which must be a ballad or standard popular song, and not considered “Ragtime”. At no point may selections be repeated in subsequent rounds.

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. The theme piece must be performed before the Finals round.

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 when selections must be finalized and after which date no revisions to the play list may be made.

5. Contestants must submit a repertoire list that includes all of the selections they will play in the Preliminary, Semi-final and Final rounds not later than the registration deadline of May 15. No changes are permitted after that date. Contestants are not required to reveal repertoire for specific rounds, rather, each contestant may choose their repertoire from their “pool” list provided. Contestants advancing to the semi-finals must adhere to the theme requirement.

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.



2024 THEME: Contestants who advance to the Semi-finals on Sunday afternoon will play two (2) selections of their choice, one of which must be the theme piece (if not performed already). The theme for the 50th anniversary contest in 2024 will require contestants to play one selection which contains a reference to time, old age, or longevity in its title. [Examples: Long, Long Ago; It's Been Long, Long Time; The Old Oaken Bucket; Seems Like Old Times; When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New; Three O'clock in the Morning; Just In Time, etc.]. Note that the "theme" does not apply to Junior or Senior 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 and Semi-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. Six (6) minutes is allotted for those who make the Finals.

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 all Divisions will report to our "Green Room" on Saturday morning at 8:00 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 we 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 \$75 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.

CONTESTANT TICKETS: The contest will provide each contestant with one (1) complimentary all-event ticket for their use plus one additional ticket for a family member or guest. No complimentary tickets are provided for catered events or excursions. Contestants should advise when entering the contest if another ticket is needed.

DEADLINE: The total number of contestants is limited to the first 30 paid entries, and each entry form shall list that contestant's music selections, to be updated no later than May 15, the contest deadline. Entries will be accepted for up to fourteen (14) Regular Division contestants; six (6) Senior 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: The Contest Coordinator, William McNally, will answer rule and contestant questions at this address: pianobill@gmail.com . Online entries will be instantly processed 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. The address for mail-in entries is Old-Time Piano Contest, c/o Ian Hominick, University of Mississippi Dept. of Music, PO Box 1848, University, MS 38677-1848. Walk-on entries will be accepted on the Saturday of competition until the limit of 30 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, 2024.

2024 PRIZES: For our 50th anniversary, the winner will receive \$2,500, a golden medallion, a permanent trophy and free lodging for the following year's contest. Second place will receive \$1,500 and a silver medallion. Third place will receive \$1,000 and a bronze medallion. Fourth and fifth places will be awarded cash prizes of \$750 and \$500 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. 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: Up to ten (10) Junior Division contestants play on Saturday and the Junior Division champ will be announced at the close of the Junior Contest. Each Junior Division contestant must prepare two (2) selections, but are not required to play mandatory standard tunes or comply with the “theme selection” as required in the Regular Division.

PRIZES: For our 50th anniversary, the Junior Champion will be awarded a prize of \$1,000 and a permanent trophy. A second-place prize of \$750 and third-place prize of \$500 will also 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 \$50 with a penalty fee for late entry \$25. This entry fee is not refundable unless the contest is canceled.

PARENTAL CONSENT: Contestants in the Junior Division must have their entry confirmed by a parent.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SENIOR DIVISION

* Note: Senior contestants should also read all of the Regular Division rules, as many apply to both divisions! Senior contestants may NOT enter both the Regular Division AND Senior Contest.

ELIGIBILITY: Senior contestants are defined as those 60 years of age or older on the day of competition. Any contestant winning the Senior Division a total of three (3) times (not necessarily in consecutive years) may no longer be declared champion in the Senior Division. However, the contestant may continue to perform in any other eligible contest.



FORMAT: A total of six (6) Senior Division contestants may play two selections each on Saturday. Three (3) contestants may be chosen to advance to perform two selections each on Sunday's Semi-finals, after which the champion will be selected. Senior contestants are not required to play the "theme selection" as required in the Regular Division.

REPERTOIRE: Contestants need to prepare four (4) different selections written no later than 1939 (no medleys allowed), one of which must be a ballad or standard popular song, and not considered "ragtime". 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. Contestants are not required to reveal repertoire for specific rounds, rather, each contestant may choose their repertoire from their "pool" list provided. Contestants may play their selections in any order from their list within each round as long as selections are not repeated.

PRIZES: The Senior Champion is awarded a prize of \$300 and a permanent trophy. A second-place prize of \$200 and third-place prize of \$100 will also be awarded.

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 Senior Division is \$50 with a penalty fee for late entry \$25. This entry fee is not refundable unless the contest is canceled.

NEW RAG CONTEST

ELIGIBILITY: Contestants of any age are eligible to compete.

ENTRY FEE: The entry fee is \$50 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 6:00 pm on Friday 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. Composers who are not in attendance must solicit a performer and provide the printed score to the performer no later than one month in advance. **Contest personnel will no longer be available to play New Rags.*

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.*

STYLE: The selection should adhere as close as possible to the authentic form, melody, rhythm and harmonic language of the ragtime era. Three to four sections are compulsory, each containing distinct contrasting themes. New works should also contain familiar rhythmic features normally associated with ragtime such as syncopation and regularly accented accompaniment. Composers are permitted creative latitude with regard to melody and harmony while, at the same time, adhering to the historic definition of a "rag."

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 strictly limited to a total of ten (10) competitors. Walk-on entries will be allowed provided there are fewer than 10 advance entries.

ENTRY SUBMISSION: The Contest Coordinator, William McNally, will answer rule and contestant questions at this address: pianobill@gmail.com. On line entries will be instantly processed 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. The address for mail-in entries is Old-Time Piano Contest, c/o Ian Hominick, University of Mississippi Dept. of Music, PO Box 1848, University, MS 38677-1848.



Pick up an official Contest T-shirt (left) or an official contest cap, tote, mug, or pen (below) at the merchandise table located in the hallway outside Nutt Auditorium.



Concessions are available in the hallway outside Nutt Auditorium.





CHAMPS THROUGH THE YEARS



(* denotes retired 3-time champions)

REGULAR DIVISION

Joybelle Squibb, 1975-76
Dorothy M. Herrold, 1977-79*
Bruce Petsche, 1980
Mark Haldorson, 1981-83*
Janet Kaizer, 1984-85
Ron Trotta, 1986-88*
Julie McClarey, 1989, 1995-96
Marty Mincer, 1990, 1993
“Perfessor” Bill Edwards, 1991
Paul Gronemeier, 1992
Mimi Blais, 1994, 2000
Brian Holland, 1997-99*
Dan Mouyard, 2001, 2003
Adam Downey, 2002
Adam Yarian, 2004-6*
Ethan Uslan, 2007, 2012, 2014*
Adam Swanson, 2008-10, 2015*
Martin Spitznagel, 2011
Russell Wilson, 2013
William McNally, 2016-17
Jean-Baptiste Franc, 2018
Paul Orsi, 2019 & 2023
Eve Elliot, 2022

SENIOR DIVISION

John Remmers, 2018
Bobby van Deusen, 2019, 2022-23

DUET CONTEST

Bill Edwards & Adam Swanson
2015
Adam Swanson & 4 Arrows
2016
Daniel Souvigny & Nathan Beasley
2017
Adam Swanson & Daniel Souvigny
2018

JUNIOR DIVISION

Neil Moe, 1985-87*
Dax Baumgartner, 1988-90*
Adam Downey, 1991-93*
Marty Sammon, 1994-95
Dan Mouyard, 1996
Noah Harmon, 1997
Adam Yarian, 1998-2000*
Harrison Wade, 2001, 2005
Will Best, 2002
Adam Swanson, 2003-4, 2006*
Wesley Reznicek, 2007, 2009
Cassidy Gephart, 2008
Morgan Siever, 2010-11
Isaac Smith, 2013
Daniel Souvigny, 2012, 2014-15*
Nina Freeman, 2016
Nathan Beasley, 2017
Kelton Boblits, 2018-19
John Beggs, 2022
John Patrick Hutchinson, 2023

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 - 2001-2, 2016
The Necromancer
The Wiener Schnitzel
Le Syncope du Papillon

David Feurzeig - 2003
Stride-Rite Rag
Ted Lemen - 2004-5
The Last Rag Standing
The Number 2 Rag
John Harmon - 2006
The Raspberry Rag
Martin Spitznagel - 2007, 2011, 2017
Red Elephant Rag
The Smoky Rose
Dreams of Irene
Bill McNally - 2008-9, 2012
Blue Donkey Rag
Mocha Monkey Rag
Fancy Flight
Jacob Adams - 2010, 2017-18
Procrastinaporag
Quintessential Rag
Split Personality Rag
Adam Swanson - 2013
Strater Shuffle
Vincent Matthew Johnson - 2014
“...And So Fourth”
David Cavalari - 2015, 2019
That 45 RPM Rag
The Nickelodeon Rag
Sam Post - 2021
Lighthouse Rag
Warren Ertle - 2022
Yellow Hammer Rag
Paul Orsi, Tom Lakeland & Adam Swanson - 2023 *Transatlantic Rag*



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
Yoknapatawpha Arts Council
Visit Oxford
Lane Music

PLUS all of the students and individuals from the community who have stepped forward to help make this event run smoothly.

For our special anniversary year, a huge thank-you to a very special donor who has provided funding to make it possible to increase prize money and host some very special guest artists. This anonymous gift is dedicated to all of the prior Piano Pals and volunteers who have donated thousands of hours to make the Contest possible.



Music



**Yoknapatawpha
Arts Council**

CONTEST PERSONNEL



TED LEMEN
Founder and Emcee
Bradley, IL



IAN HOMINICK
Artistic Director &
Site Coordinator
Oxford, MS



ADAM SWANSON
Co-Emcee & Junior Contest
Coordinator
Durango, CO



WILLIAM MCNALLY
Contest Coordinator
San Antonio, TX



BOBBY van DEUSEN
New Rag Contest Coordinator
Pensacola, FL



PORTIA DAVIS
Judging Assistant
Jackson, MS



KAREN WADE
Card Girl
Decatur, IL



CHARLIE MILES
A/V Technical Director
Oxford, MS



JACOB SNELL
Assistant A/V Technical
Director
Oxford, MS



ANDREA DRUMMOND
Publicity
Oxford, MS



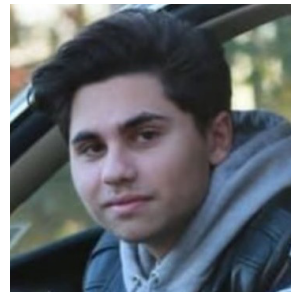
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Sales
Oxford, MS



PATRICK LENEHAN
Photographer
Chicago, IL



TRACY DeLEONE
Publicist
Eldorado, AR



RILEY BROWN
Student Assistant
Oxford, MS



WAYNE ANDREWS
Yoknapatawapha Arts
Council
Oxford, MS

*Thank you to all community volunteers who
have stepped forward to assist with this year's
event!*

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

OLD-TIME

piano playing

CONTEST AND FESTIVAL



2022 Contestants Goto Masayoshi and Paul Orsi relaxing at the afterhours at the Oxford Pavilion



2017 Junior interview; Adam Swanson (L), Kevin Zhou (C), Ted Lemen (R)



2022 Diana Stein with Bill Perry, Jr. at Pavilion



2022 Champion Eve Elliot at piano



2017 Tune Ups Party - Ted Lemen (C) with Irma & Faye Ballard



Jean-Baptiste Franc & Michael Drexler at the 2019 Contest



2017 Junior Contestants



In 1986, the contest took place on a semi-truck flatbed with a canvas tarp over the top to protect contestants from incremental mists that day.



The late Danny Matson with Faye Ballard, 2019



2022 Junior Competitors



2017 William McNally, Champion



Four Arrows, 2019



Olivia Zhou of Buffalo Grove, IL wins a Junior prize at the 2019 Contest



2017 David Cavallari, Isaac Smith, Bill McNally, Martin Spitznagel, Paul Orsi



Two-time champion Janet Kazier of Peoria, tried several times for the elusive third win but never cinched it.



2022 Card Girls Michaela Shields & Karen Wade



Adam Downey of Michigan was all smiles as Judy Leschewski handed him the Junior Division trophy.



The Bliesener family, 2019



2017 Tune Ups Party - Ted Lemen, Mary & John Remmers, David Cavallari.



Kelton Boblits, 2019 Junior Division Champion



2017 Champions



Ted Lemen Sing-a-long, 2019



Paul Orsi, Champion 2019



Contestant and future judge Linda Harmon of Winneconne, WI performs on the outdoor stage at the Monticello High School.



2017 David Cavalari performing



Contest Founder and Emcee Ted Lemen does a clarinet glissando with Wally on the accordion, Peoria IL.

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 cash prizes & trophies, guest artist & judges' fees, staff hotel, advertising, and a host of other logistical expenses.

If you would like to help defray these expenses through monetary or in-kind donations, please contact the Contest Artistic Director Ian Hominick at oldtimepianocontest@olemiss.edu.

If you love this music and would like to help sustain the future of this event, you can give funds in one of three ways:

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

Mailing address: Ian Hominick, Contest Artistic Director
UM Department of Music
PO Box 1848
University, MS 38677-1848



PAYPAL

PayPal.Me/OldTimePianoContest

Donate using your PayPal account by typing in type in oldtimepianocontest@gmail.com

**don't be alarmed if your receipt comes with your donation having been given to an individual*



VENMO

@OldTimePianoContest

*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!***



IN MEMORIAM



Barbara Schueller
former Officer & Director



Ellen Thomas
Sales Director & Contest Worker



Double Decker Bus Tour, 2017

MANY THANKS



The Old-Time Piano Playing Contest and Festival wishes to express its gratitude to Scott Lane at **Lane Music of Memphis, TN** for providing pianos for the after-hours each evening at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center.

Location:

9309 Poplar Ave.
Germantown, TN 38138

Phone:

901-450-5377

Hours of Operation:

Mon - Fri: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday: Appointment Only