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DAY WEEKEND

MAY 24-27
2018

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

OLD-TIME
piano playing

CONTEST AND FESTIVAL

44TH

oldtimepianocontest.com

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Sponsored by The University of Mississippi Department of Music



THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI



Autographs



Join us Sunday morning at 10:55 a.m. for a special worship service featuring Adam Swanson, Julie McClarey & “Perfessor” Bill Edwards at Oxford-University United Methodist Church
424 S. 10th St., Oxford, MS
on University Avenue toward the Square



Join us at the Chancellor's House for all after-hours parties.
Friday luncheon with Adam Swanson at 12:00 p.m. and Saturday dinner with the guest artists at 6:30 p.m.

25th Annual
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January 24-25-26-27, 2019

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 John Otto, reeds
 Tom Bartlett, trombone
 Jeff Barnhart, piano
 Josh Duffee, drums
- Dr. Dave Majchzak
- Marty Mincer
- Mad Creek Mudcats
- Locust Street Boys
- Ragtime Jim Radloff

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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



William Faulkner statue on the historic Oxford Square

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to the 44th season of the Old-Time Piano Contest! I hope you have a thoroughly enjoyable time while you are here. 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.

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.

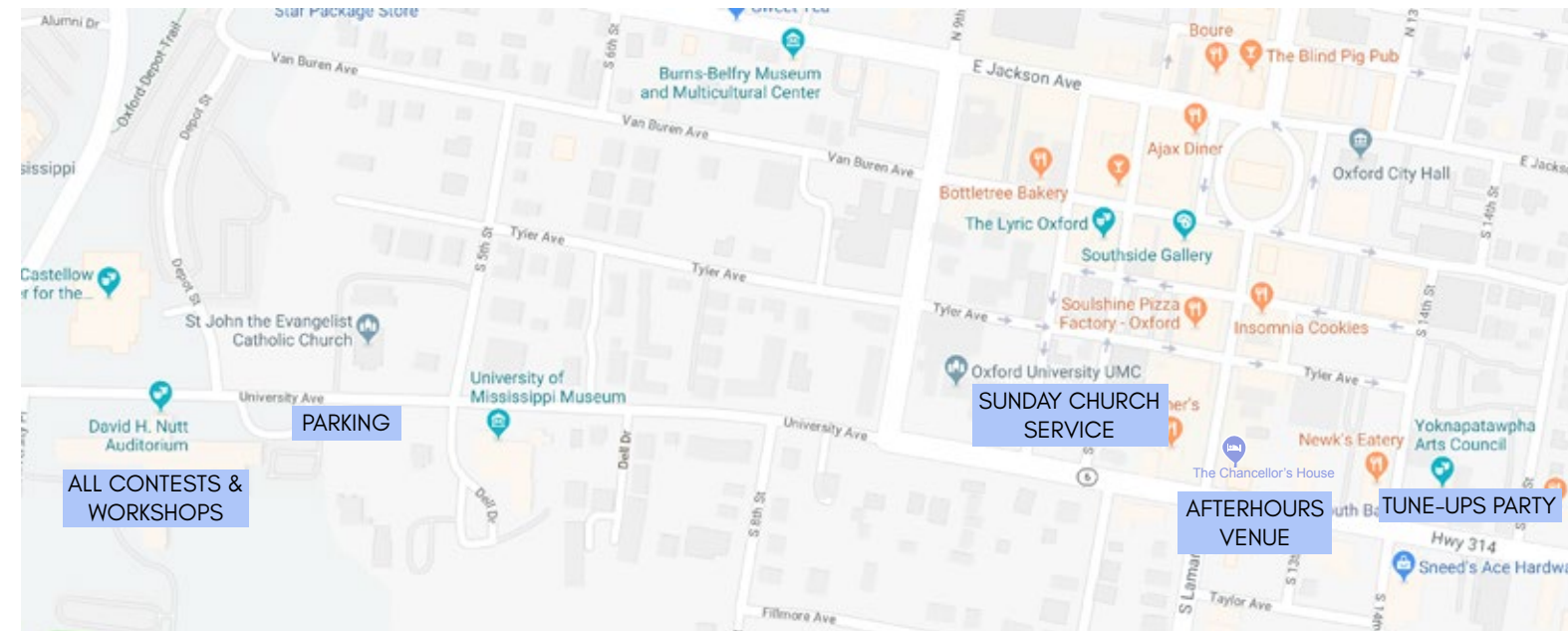
Sit back and enjoy some old-time piano playing from performers from across the country and beyond ... tell your friends about it ... and bring them back with you next year!

Ian Hominick,
Artistic Director



David H. Nutt Auditorium at the University of Mississippi

OXFORD VENUE MAP



CONTEST T-SHIRT & HAT DESIGN



Contest merchandise may be purchased in the hallway outside of Nutt Auditorium.

CONTEST PERSONNEL

TED LEMEN, Founder & Emcee
Bradley, IL

IAN HOMINICK, Artistic Director & Site Coordinator
Oxford, MS

FAYE BALLARD, Contest Coordinator
Champaign, IL

JEANNE LIPPINCOTT, Sales
Oxford, MS

ADAM SWANSON, Co-emcee
Davis, CA

BARBARA FLACK, Judging Assistant
Plainfield, IL

ELLEN THOMAS, Merchandise Sales
Peoria, IL

SAMANTHA SIMPSON, Card Girl & Set Design
Corinth, MS

CHARLIE MILES, A/V Technical Director
Oxford, MS

DIANNE FALKNER, Community Engagement &
Registration
Oxford, MS

LARA DAVIS, Sales/ Chancellor's House Hostess
Oxford, MS

CATHERINE SMITH, Sales
Oxford, MS

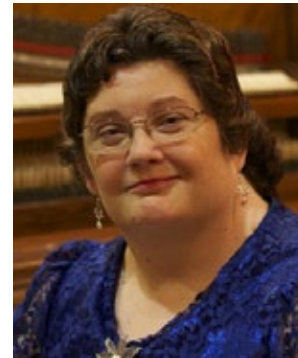
ANNA HERD, Public Relations
Oxford, MS



Ted Lemen



Ian Hominick



Faye Ballard



Jeanne Lippincott



Adam Swanson



Barbara Flack



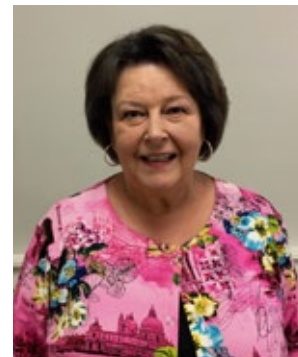
Ellen Thomas



Samantha Simpson



Charlie Miles



Dianne Falkner



Lara Davis



Catherine Smith

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, Ill. 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 Pèrre 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

Dorothy M. Herrold, of LaPorte, Ind., 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, the first one held at Shakey's Pizza Parlor in Champaign, Ill. 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 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 Chancellor's House. 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 Lemen entertains



Ted Lemen, Mimi Blais, and Judy Leschewski

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 and trophies, guest artist and 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 1937.

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!

WE NEED YOU!



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 2019 event, please contact Ian Hominick at (662) 915-1282 or by email at oldtimepianocontest@olemiss.edu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Contest would like to thank the following individuals for their donations to the Contest:

Gordon H Dunkin, Jr.	Vestavia, AL
Henrietta & Robert Freeman	San Antonio, TX
Scott & Roma King	Shenadoah, IA
Lowell F. Lynde, Jr.	Monticello, AR
Duane A. Pannell	Memphis, TN
Jay Hughes	Oxford, MS

The Contest would like to thank the those who helped make this weekend a success:

Dr. Robert Riggs, Chairman, UM Department of Music
Wayne Andrews, Director, Yoknapatawpha Arts Council
Greg Johnson, Curator, UM Blues Archive
Visit Oxford
Charlie Miles
Anna Herd
Amanda Fliflet
Ben & Michelle Fuller
Gary & Juanita Lockheimer
Dianne Falkner
Samantha Simpson
Lara Davis
Catherine Smith
Jeanne Lippincott

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



GUEST ARTISTS AND JUDGES



Adam Swanson is one of the world's foremost performers of vintage American popular music, including ragtime, early jazz, the Great American Songbook, and more. He holds a bachelor's in classical piano and a master's in musicology from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. Although he is only twenty-six years old, Adam has been a featured performer and lecturer at ragtime and jazz festivals across the United States, 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 has performed at the Cinecon Classic Film Festival in Hollywood and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., as well as in Hungary and Switzerland. He has worked with such musicians as Toronto's John Arpin, former rock star Ian Whitcomb, and legendary 1950s recording artist Johnny Maddox, who is one of Adam's greatest influences. Adam performs every summer at the historic Strater Hotel in Durango, Colorado. Visit Adam online at www.adamgswanson.com.



Hailed by the press as one of the best concert pianists in the world, **Frederick Hodges** is sought after by today's foremost orchestras, festivals, conductors, and collaborative musicians. His absolute artistry, virtuosity and charisma have brought him to the world's most renowned stages numerous times, leaving audiences around the globe repeatedly captivated. Mr. Hodges has made regular appearances at major music festivals throughout the US as well as world tours with the Royal Society Jazz Orchestra under the baton of conductor Don Neely. Renowned as a pianist and singer, Frederick Hodges is recognized by audiences around the world for his mastery of diverse repertoire from Rachmaninoff to Gershwin.

He has established a reputation as a truly versatile artist equally sought after as soloist, singer, guest soloist with the California Pops Orchestra, and dance band pianist. He has appeared on national television, radio, and in several Hollywood films. He is also a sought-after silent film accompanist for both live performances and on DVD. He performs regularly at the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum.

His extensive repertoire includes the great European classical masters as well as the best American composers such as George Gershwin and Cole Porter. His distinguished discography, primarily on Rivermont Records, Stomp Off, and Aristophone Records, includes piano works by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, and Scott Joplin.

Frederick Hodges is a native of California, where he began his piano studies at age eight. At thirteen, he began intense classical piano study with two famed San Francisco Bay Area piano teachers who were both graduates of the Juilliard School of Music: Virginia Moore and Trula Whelan. At age seventeen, he won the prestigious Music Teachers of California Young Artist Award. At twenty, while still an undergraduate at the University of California at Berkeley, he joined Don Neely's Royal Society Jazz Orchestra as pianist. Since then, he has toured extensively. Frederick has enjoyed a career playing solo piano for society parties and holding down steady engagements at legendary San Francisco establishments such as L'Etoile in the Huntington Hotel, Masons in the Fairmont Hotel, and the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

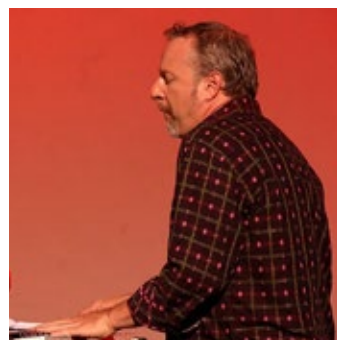
In 2001, Frederick earned a doctorate in history from Oxford University in England, where he lived for five years as a member of Magdalen College. From 2001 to 2002, he served as a postdoctoral research associate at Yale University. Frederick has participated in many prestigious festivals including the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Sacramento Music Festival, the WestCoast Ragtime Festival, The Blind Boone Festival in Columbia Missouri, the Templeton Ragtime Festival at Mississippi State University, the El Segundo Ragtime Festival, and the Sedalia Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival, Cinecon Film Festival in Hollywood, among others.



Julie McClarey is an awarding winning pianist with a style that lights up every venue in which she appears. She has performed at notable locations in Branson, MO, Nashville, TN and throughout the United States. An undefeated National Ragtime Piano Playing Award winner three years in a row, she is equally accomplished with classical selections, hit standards from many eras, as well as traditional hymns and contemporary Christian music.

Julie's love of people spills over into her performances, often playing "Name That Tune" with the audience and even having fun playing the piano "backwards." Julie's piano skills began to develop at the early age of six as she learned how to play on the family's upright piano in the living room of the house where her parents still reside. Her training continued as she graduated Suma Cum Laude with a degree in Piano Performance at Millikin University.

Julie loves to teach as well as perform and has appeared as featured performer and music director aboard Showboat Branson Belle; performed with Dino and with Jo Ann Castle of the Lawrence Welk Show; has served as Band Leader/Pianist of the Country Music USA Show at Opryland USA and was a featured guest on the Pat Sajak Television Show.



Mark Yacovone, originally from Providence, Rhode Island, now makes his home in Oxford, Mississippi. Mark is probably least known for his brief television appearance in the reality series "Gene Simmons: Family Jewels".

Mark's piano, Hammond B-3, and accordion "side-man" contributions span several decades and multiple genres and he has had the pleasure of sharing the stage and/or the studio with musical greats such as Mojo Nixon, Jody Williams (Howlin' Wolf, Bo Diddley), Buddy Cage (New Riders of the Purple Sage), Maria Muldaur, Jeff Daniels, Kenny Brown, Bill Payne (Little Feat), and most recently, on tour with Shannon McNally.



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PRIZES: The Senior Champion is awarded a prize of \$200; a permanent trophy and a waiver of registration fees for the following year's Contest.

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 \$30 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, May 25, 2018, 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 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: 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 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 be held at the Chancellor's House on Friday evening, May 25, 2018 at 8 pm.

ELIGIBILITY: Contestants of any age are eligible to compete.

ENTRY FEE: The entry fee is \$30/each 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 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.

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: 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 selections, but are not required to play mandatory standard tunes or comply with the "theme selection" 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 \$40 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 or guardian by means of a separate email to the Contest Director at oldtimepianocontest@olemiss.edu

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SENIOR DIVISION

* Note: Senior contestants should also read all of the rules above, 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 eight (8) 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 different selections written no later than 1939 (no medleys allowed), two of which must be ballads or standard popular songs, and not considered "rag-time". 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.

2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018	
7 p.m.	Tune-ups Party at the Powerhouse
FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018	
10 a.m.	Double-decker Bus Tour of UM Campus & Blues Archive
12 p.m.	Musical Luncheon at Chancellor's House with Adam Swanson
2 p.m.	Registration opens in hallway outside Nutt Auditorium
2:30 p.m.	Workshop with "Perfessor" Bill Edwards
3:30 p.m.	Junior contestant workshop with Julie McClarey
6 p.m.	New Rag Contest
7:30 p.m.	Duet Contest followed by Ragfest at Chancellor's House
SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2018	
8 a.m.	Contestant Draw for playing times (Room 153)
9 a.m.	Junior Division Contest
11:30 a.m.	Silent Movie Box Lunch at the UM Choral Hall with Frederick Hodges
1 p.m.	Regular & Senior Division Preliminary Round
6:30 p.m.	Dinner with Guest Artists at Chancellor's House
8 p.m.	World's Greatest Sing-along & Afterglow Party
SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2018	
9 a.m.	Workshop with Frederick Hodges
10:55 a.m.	Gospel Rag Service at OU Methodist Church with Julie McClarey, Adam Swanson, & Bill Edwards
1 p.m.	Semi-finals, Seniors Final & Finals
6 p.m.	Dinner on your own
7 p.m.	Red, White, & Blue Farewell Party at Chancellor's House

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

> 2018 Contest T-shirts, caps, and performers CDs available for sale in the hallway

SUPPORT OUR CONTESTANTS BY PURCHASING PERFORMER CDS
AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN THE HALLWAY LEADING FROM THE AUDITORIUM

CONTESTANT PROFILES



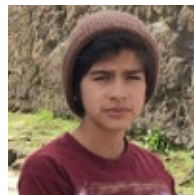
Born and raised in Minneapolis, MN, **Jacob Adams** began studying piano at 10 and later studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the University of Illinois. He became part of the ragtime circuit in 2009 when invited to perform at the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival and participated in the Old-Time 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. Jacob is currently a resident of Berwyn, IL.



Richard H. Bliesener II is a 13-year-old pianist known as “Ragtime Richie” in Burlington, Iowa. He has played piano for six years and is accomplished on the violin and percussion instruments. Playing piano, he is the reigning 2017 & 2016 Hannibal’s Got Talent (9-15 age group) champion in Hannibal, Missouri. He has competed playing piano at the Iowa State Fair, Bill Riley Talent show in Des Moines, IA. Rich is a middle school 7th grade student who plays in orchestra, band and jazz band and he has his own jazz band named All That Jazz. Rich fell in love with ragtime music after many trips to the Scott Joplin House in St. Louis, Missouri. He is also an avid golfer, cross country runner and little league baseball player.



Kelton Boblits is from Fayette County, West Virginia. He is 14-years-old and in the ninth grade. Kelton started playing piano at the age of six. By 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 WV schools to encourage other students to get involved in music. Kelton also enjoys playing the resophonic guitar, slide guitar, and harmonica. This is Kelton’s second appearance in the Junior Division of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest and his first appearance in the New Rag Contest.



Marcus Borden is an avid player of ragtime piano music, focusing primarily on the works of Scott Joplin. Marcus has a curious mind and an ability to focus. Among his favorite pursuits are mathematics, chess, languages, drawing and wrestling. He was born in California and spent the first five years of his life in the quiet college town of Davis. From five to eight years old, he studied piano in New York City and in 2010, he moved to his current home of Boulder, Colorado. Last year, he lived in Florence, Italy, nearby the ancient cathedral of Santa Croce, where he headlined a piano recital for the Instituto del Sacro Cuore, playing the two songs that you will hear today.



The first professional piano-playing gig for **David Cavalari** was a few months with the Butte Theater in Cripple Creek, Colorado at the end of 2007, where he introduced the show playing Maple Leaf Rag and Elite Syncopations, the only two rags he knew how to play at the time. The following year, he started playing piano during the summers for the Alaska Cabin Nite Dinner Theater, where he developed an affinity for the music of Jelly Roll Morton and dazzled audiences with nightly performances of The Fingerbreaker. Soon afterward, he decided that being a full-time professional musician was far, far too much work, so he went back to school to become a software engineer. He has been a four-time finalist at the World Championship Old Time Piano Playing Contest and Festival, where he also won the New Rag Contest in 2015. His newest original rag, “The Giant Slide Rag”, will be appearing on the CD “Ragtime Wizardry 2”, expected to be released sometime later this year by Rivermont Records.



Mike Chapman is a Colorado native playing mostly old-time tunes, ragtime, stride, and, in particular, boogie-woogie. At a very early age, he recognized he had perfect pitch, could play by ear and could teach himself to play the piano. He has been playing ever since. What he loves about this Old-Time Piano Contest is the opportunity to be surrounded by all the other incredible musicians, each having a different style.

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 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 Junior 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 \$60 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 and must be reserved by May 1. 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 family member or guest. These tickets do not apply to 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, 2018, the contest deadline. Entries will be accepted for up to sixteen (14) Regular Division contestants; six (6) Senior contestants and twelve (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 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 27, 2018 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, 2018.

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

2018 OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

These are the Official Rules for the 2018 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, Senior and Regular Division contestants must draw for playing order at an 8:15 a.m. drawing.

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. The next contest takes place May 26-27, 2018.

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 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and continue until each contestant has been heard.

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 1:00 p.m. 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 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, 2018, 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. Finalists must include a themed tune. This year's theme is “weather.”

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.

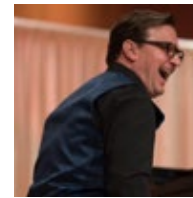
8. On stage, contestants need provide only the title and composer of their selections prior to their playing although additional information may be requested by the contest MC during their on-stage interview. Composer names must appear on each entry.

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.

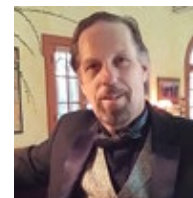
2018 THEME: Contestants who advance to the Finals on Sunday afternoon will play two (2) additional selections, one of which must contain a reference to weather in the title. Note that the “theme” does not apply to Junior competitors.

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



Michael Drexler is an award-winning pianist, music business executive and former music producer and audio engineer with two Grammy nominations to his name. Born in Munich

(Germany), Michael fell in love with ragtime, blues and jazz music early on after attending his first jam session. He graduated from the prestigious Berklee College of Music with a degree in jazz piano performance. Michael performed nationally and internationally as a pianist and keyboardist, both as a featured soloist and sideman, with various jazz, pop, rock and EDM acts. About three years ago Michael rediscovered his love for ragtime and early jazz music and subsequently won a medal at the World Championship Old-Time Piano Contest. In his spare time, Michael works as Vice President of Digital Strategy and Corporate Development for Warner Music Group where he leads strategic investments and corporate development while managing existing strategic relationships.



Bill Edwards 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 then resided in Durango,

CO through the first half of the 1980s, where he took up residence at the famous Diamond Belle Saloon at the Strater Hotel. Bill has lived and worked in Northern Virginia since 1986, applying his vibrant personality and passion for ragtime and history to his stage performances. He holds the 1991 title from the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. Bill was a featured performer in the 2012 multi-award winning documentary about the competition, *The Entertainers*, and the Artist in Residence for the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival in 2014. In 2016, he was awarded the lifetime achievement award in the field of Ragtime Research and Performance by the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival, an event for which he is the director of symposiums. You can find out more than anyone would ever want to know about Bill and Ragtime at <http://ragpiano.com>.



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 played a concert with Louis Armstrong's

bassist, Arwell Shaw in New York and that same year, he performed at the Lincoln Center of New York for the Summer Swing Jazz Festival with drummer Daniel Bechet. He also played with Fats Waller's guitarist, Al Casey and earned himself that night the nickname “Little Fats.” Jean Baptiste has received the support of Wynton Marsalis who said: “he plays with his heart” and of such pianists as Monty Alexander and Junior Mance for his CD recorded with Count Basie's drummer, Duffy Jackson. In 2010, Jean Baptiste recorded an album of original compositions with Melody Federer in Hollywood and has been guest soloist in the Lucerne Festival.



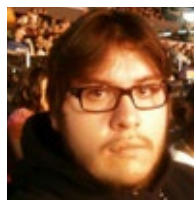
Born in Oakland, California in 1962, **Riccardo La Spina** was immersed in musical and theatrical performance from an early age, and began collecting historical recordings of singers

about the same time. His love for Ragtime was sparked in the early seventies, coinciding with the Ragtime revival. He resumed composing rags and songs in 2004 which led to subsequent events including Ragtime Corner at the 2006 Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, where La Spina was featured both as a solo pianist and in several solo vocal sets, accompanied by Tom Brier.

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.



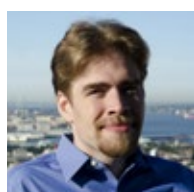
Tom Lakeland makes his second pilgrimage to Oxford from Staffordshire, Great Britain. Outside of his teaching profession, Tom enjoys listening to 78 rpm vinyl records, searching for vintage sheet music or collecting pulp magazines from the 1940s and 50s. Playing and composing old-time piano music, however, takes a prime place among his hobbies and he is thrilled to be returning for the 2018 contest - even if it means a week away from much-loved tea and scones. Tom visits the United States every summer to visit family in Rhode Island where he enjoys the beaches, pizza and anything pertaining to his favorite author, H.P. Lovecraft.



Born and raised in Los Angeles, **Edward Maraga** has been playing ragtime for eight years after seeing and hearing various artists performing ragtime pieces, especially those of Scott Joplin, on YouTube. Besides playing, he also composes pieces in hopes that others would enjoy both hearing and playing them. His favorite composers are James Scott, Brun Campbell and early folk rag composers. Having graduated in 2013 from film school, he is currently a Bus Operator for the city of Los Angeles.



Bill McHarris, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Physics/Astronomy at Michigan State University, was born and raised in Knoxville, TN. His BA is from Oberlin College, where he majored in chemistry, but also studied organ, composition, and choral conducting. His composition professor was nephew and amanuensis to Arnold Schönberg. His PhD is in nuclear chemistry and he has been at MSU performing research at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory in nuclear chemistry/physics. He has been organist and/or choir director at churches, has sung in semi-professional choirs, is Associate Carillonneur at MSU, is proficient in electronic music and plays a theremin built for him especially by Bob Moog. He has had numerous musical compositions performed and published and has been participating in the New Rag Contest for more than ten years.

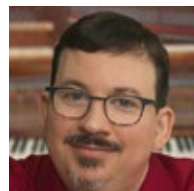


The New York Times has called him “a hot item” and “powerful,” the Boston Globe wrote, “sharp soloing,” and the Santa Barbara Independent called him a pianist, “...with great sympathy and insight.” **William McNally** is winner of the 2016 & 2017 World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest, and 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 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 pub-

lication. At present, he teaches Fine Arts, Writing about Music, and Music Theory in addition to his accompanying work at Texas State University.



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



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 2001 & 2003, becoming the youngest Regular Division Champion until then and the first to win all three divisions. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Dan now lives in Bethesda, MD with his wife and kids.



A ragtime aficionado since “The Sting” ragtime revival of the 1970s, **Paul Orsi** is a seasoned performer and composer. From a young age, he was a member of the old Maple Leaf Club and began professionally performing ragtime piano at age 13 in pizza parlors in and around Los Angeles. Paul has played his high-energy ragtime style in a variety of restaurants and venues throughout Southern California. In 1983, he joined the elite group of Coke Corner Pianists at Disneyland, where he performed for 10 years. In addition to his active performance schedule, Paul has composed his own piano rags, recorded piano rolls and produced two solo CDs. He performs at venues all over Orange County, California and is active in the Orange County Ragtime Society and the Rose Leaf Club. You will be sure to enjoy Paul’s exciting style and uplifting performance.

SEMI-FINALS SCORECARD

1. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

2. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

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

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

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

6. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

7. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

8. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

9. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

10. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

FINALS SCORECARD

1. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

2. Name _____
#1 _____
#2 _____
Points _____

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

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

5. 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 in this Category: 30

CATEGORY 2: STYLE & INTERPRETATION

Tempo
Rhythm
Articulation & Phrasing
Contrast & Dynamics
Interpretation
Originality
Preparation
Musicality

Possible Points in this Category: 40

CATEGORY 3: SHOWMANSHIP

Stage Presence
Salesmanship/ Musical Product
Poise & Command
Audience Rapport/ Handling
Applause

Possible Points in this Category: 20

CATEGORY 4: COSTUME

Circle One:
Authentic
Replica
Costume
Make-up or Grooming

Possible Points in this Category: 10

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 16, 17, and 18.

○	○	○
Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____
Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____
Points _____	Points _____	Points _____
○	○	○
Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____
Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____
Points _____	Points _____	Points _____
○	○	○
Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____
Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____
Points _____	Points _____	Points _____
○	○	○
Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____
Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____
Points _____	Points _____	Points _____
○	○	○
Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____	Selection 1 _____
Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____	Selection 2 _____
Points _____	Points _____	Points _____

SENIORS SCORECARD

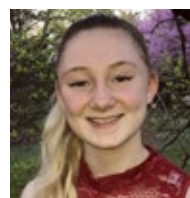
1. Name _____	4. Name _____
#1 _____	#1 _____
#2 _____	#2 _____
Points _____	Points _____
2. Name _____	5. Name _____
#1 _____	#1 _____
#2 _____	#2 _____
Points _____	Points _____
3. Name _____	6. Name _____
#1 _____	#1 _____
#2 _____	#2 _____
Points _____	Points _____



Ron Pufall, born and raised in Wisconsin, taught elementary school for many years until 2001 when he retired. Since retirement, he has had employment as a realtor, a part-time senior benefits specialist, and a part-time county government clerk. He currently drives Medicaid recipients to their medical appointments throughout the southern half of Wisconsin. Just turned 76-years-old, Ron began piano lessons in 3rd grade, learned to play guitar on his own, and currently plays either instrument on weekends for a church-ensemble, accompanying the congregation during Saturday evening mass. He jams every Monday night at Rank's Bar in Adams, WI, with a bluegrass/public-domain/ original music group.



John Remmers is from Ann Arbor, Michigan and has been playing ragtime piano since the 1970s, all the more so since his 2004 retirement from teaching math and computer science at the college level. A past competitor in this contest, he has been a featured performer at the Scott Joplin Festival, the Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival, the Greenfield Village Ragtime Street Fair, and other venues. His CD "Hand Played Rags" is available at the contest or on line.



Sarah Schroeder is a 14-year-old 8th grader from Danville, Illinois. Taught by Mrs. Bev Wolfe for the past six years, Sarah's love for the piano and ragtime genre continues to grow. Sarah is very active in the music programs at North Ridge Middle school where she plays the trombone in band, piano in the award-winning RedPeppers Jazz Band and is part of the nationally recognized Redcoats show choir. On the heels of placing runner-up with her Redcoats at the show choir nationals just held in Nashville, Tennessee, Sarah is excited to be participating for her second time at the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest.



Damit Senanayake was first introduced to old-time piano music, specifically ragtime, when he was growing up in Singapore in the 1990's and heard a MIDI version of Maple Leaf Rag on a floppy disk that came with his computer's sound card. Since then, his appreciation for and involvement in performing old-time piano music has

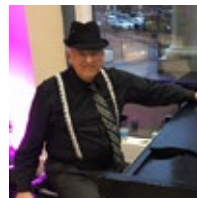
increased significantly. He has been a part of the ragtime festival community since 2010 and has been an active participant in the Sacramento Ragtime Society monthly meetings since 2014. He has also received the unique appellation "Ragtime Superfan" from Brian Holland and other musicians. In addition to old-time piano music, Damit also enjoys listening to jazz and other contemporary genres of music.



Daniel Souvigny is a 16-year old award-winning pianist from Hampshire, Illinois. 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 at the age of 15, he became the youngest to ever take a level of Second Place in the adult division of this Contest. Daniel also took the overwhelming vote of the audience and received First Place in the 2016 Cutting Contest. In 2014, he was awarded First Place in the Illinois State Talent Competition, Junior Division in Springfield, Illinois. Daniel has had the honor of performing at the West Coast Ragtime Festival in Sacramento, California, the Eagles and Ivories Ragtime Weekend in Muscatine, Iowa, the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival, and the Scott Joplin Festival in Sedalia, Missouri. Reviews from these festivals have described Daniel as "the new sensation who plays with power and surprising musicality" and "a whiz kid whose fingers fly across the keyboard". His first CD *Tearin' Up the Keys* was released in 2013, and his latest album *Possibilities* in 2015. Daniel will attend the Berklee School of Music this Fall.



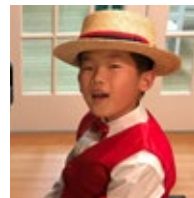
Diana Stein grew up reading & practicing classical music, giving her first recital at age 13. She has gotten into every other type of music by playing in restaurants, piano bars, club, & hotels to support herself. She especially loves entertaining seniors and Alzheimer's patients at various centers. She has entertained at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis for over 30 years. She and her husband play Blues & Ragtime in different venues and festivals around the South.



Paul Stewart retired from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Music in 2016 after 46 years of service. Paul Stewart has been active in music teaching associations and served as the Music Teachers National Association President 2005-2007. As an active performer, he has appeared as piano soloist with the North Carolina Symphony four times and given numerous solo and chamber music recitals. He has performed Classic Piano Ragtime in Manchester, England and in Bologna, Italy for international music conferences. He presented his Seminar, "Bands, Bars, and Banjos: Influences on Ragtime," for the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival, Sedalia, Missouri. He has also appeared at the Rocky Mountain Ragtime Festival and the Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival. His longtime interest and research into Ragtime piano music culminated in his 2007 CD titled "Rhythm and Rags". He has also presented workshops, lecture recitals and performances at state music teachers conferences and local music teacher associations across the country.



Monty Suffern has played in many parts of the U.S. at various ragtime festivals over the past 10 years after having "stumbled upon the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival in Sedalia, Missouri. Originally from Australia, he now resides in Texas with his wife Suzi and their five dogs. Since retiring from a 40-year career in academia where he taught Chemical Engineering and Aviation Sciences, he has time to concentrate more on his love of old-time piano playing. His playing style is best described as "rollicking" as he tries to use as many of the notes as he can fit into two hands, and ranges over the entire keyboard. Monty's other major interest is in aviation and he has held a private pilot license for over 25 years. He is currently building an airplane which is getting closer to the finished product.



Kevin Zhou started to play the piano at the age of 6. He has been classically trained and won many medals since 2014 from various piano competitions. Recently, he won Second Place from the Society of American Musicians 2018 Competition and Silver Medal at the Chicago area Sonata-Sonatina Festival. Kevin showed his strong interest in jazz piano since he visited Disney World and met a pianist who played Scott Joplin's ragtime music. He learned The Entertainer by himself, and since then, he can't stop playing ragtime music. He was the 3rd place winner in the Junior Division of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival in 2017. Besides piano, he also likes playing soccer and flying airplanes with his father.



(From Left to Right: Adam Swanson, Kevin Zhou, & Ted Lemen)



University of Mississippi east entrance

CHAMPS THROUGH THE YEARS (*denotes retired 3-time champion)

REGULAR DIVISION

Joybelle Squibb 1975 & 1976
 Dorothy M. Herrold* 1977 to 1979
 Bruce Petsche 1980
 Mark Haldorson* 1981 to 1983
 Janet Kaizer 1984 & 1985
 Ron Trotta* 1986 to 1988
 Julie McClarey 1989, 1995 & 1996
 Marty Mincer 1990 & 1993
 "Perfessor" Bill Edwards 1991
 Paul Gronemeier 1992
 Mimi Blais 1994 & 2000
 Brian Holland* 1997 to 1999
 Dan Mouyard 2001 & 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 & 2017

DUET CONTEST

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

JUNIOR DIVISION

Neil Moe* 1985 to 1987
 Dax Baumgartner* 1988 to 1990
 Adam Downey* 1991 to 1993
 Marty Sammon 1994 & 1995
 Dan Mouyard 1996
 Noah Harmon 1997
 Adam Yarian* 1998 to 2000
 Harrison Wade 2001 & 2005
 Will Best 2002
 Adam Swanson* 2003, 2004 & 2006
 Wesley Reznicek 2007 & 2009
 Cassidy Gephart 2008
 Morgan Siever 2010 & 2011
 Isaac Smith 2013
 Daniel Souvigny* 2012, 2014 & 2015
 Nina Freeman 2016
 Nathan Beasley 2017

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 & 2002
 "The Necromancer"
 "The Wiener Schnitzel"

David Feurzeig 2003
 "Stride-Rite Rag"

Ted Lemen 2004 & 2005
 "The Last Rag, Standing"
 "The Number 2 Rag"

John Harmon 2006
 "The Raspberry Rag"

Martin Spitznagel 2007 & 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"

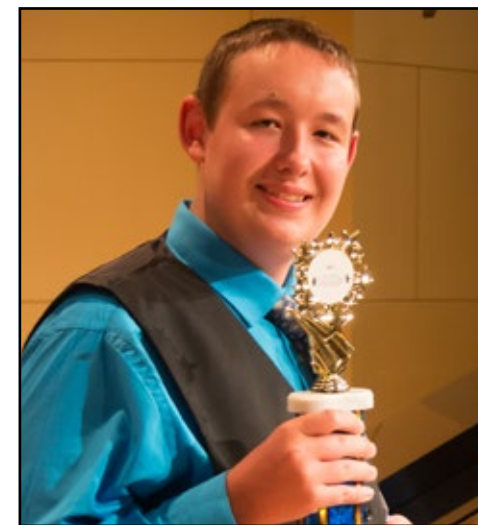
Vincent Matthew Johnson 2014
 "...And So Fourth"

David Cavallari 2015
 "That 45 RPM Rag"

Bill Edwards 2016
 "Le Syncopé du Papillon"

Martin Spitznagel 2017
 "Dreams of Irene"

Jacob Adams 2017
 "Quintessential Rag"



Nathan Beasley,
 2017 Junior Champion



William McNally,
 2017 Regular Division Champion