

THE 2023 West Coast

RAGTIME Festival

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2023



MAX MORATH
October 1, 1926 - June 19, 2023

THE 2023 West Coast

RAGTIME Festival

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West Coast Ragtime Society President's Message 2023



Robyn Drivon. Not only does she play the tuba, she's also a reformed attorney!

Welcome to the 37th annual West Coast Ragtime Festival 2023!

We will be together while the world feels divided by politics, ideology, and culture. Through the common language of music, we bridge the separations and elevate our common humanity. We share a global community with all who bring this musical vision to life. This is the purpose that drives our work: enticing you to us so that the splendor of musical creativity can be experienced together.

Every festival relies on scores of volunteers who work year-round to make this event possible. I want to personally thank committee members, the Board of Directors, and each person who played a role in what it takes to pull this festival together, especially Festival Director Virginia Tichenor! You are all fabulous!

The grand mission of the WCRS extends well beyond the production of the wonderful yearly celebration we are all about to enjoy. It is with great excitement that I announce the accomplishment of a years-long project. Our website has been modernized, expanding its usefulness as a hub for all that is ragtime. Please do some "site" seeing 😊 at westcoastragtime.com! It is friendly and functional.

If you are also passionate about our ragtime mission and would like to take a more active role, we invite you to consider becoming a member of our society. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any board member or our volunteer coordinator for further information – your involvement will be greatly valued.

Financially the festival needs your help! We kindly ask for your increased support to ensure the fiscal vitality of the West Coast Ragtime Festival. Your donations are instrumental in bringing these exquisite festivals to life, and you can easily contribute by clicking on the "Donate" tab on our website. We deeply appreciate your generosity and assure you that your tax-deductible gifts play a vital role in supporting our talented artists who are dedicated to sharing this great music with all of us.

With tremendous enthusiasm, I am excited for the arrival of West Coast Ragtime Festival 2023 and the opportunity to see all of you there! Let us join together once again as we celebrate the power of music and the joy it brings to our lives.

Wishing you all the very best,

Robyn Drivon, President WCRS
For all of us in the West Coast Ragtime Society
extended family!

A Message from the Festival Director



Virginia Tichenor. Not only does she play "The Naked Dance," she's also a CPA in her spare time!

Greetings and welcome to our 37th Annual West Coast Ragtime Festival! It is a thrill to welcome our loyal ragtime fans to our West Coast Ragtime Festival (WCRF). I am happy to introduce you to some new faces this year: Charlie Judkins and Miss Maybell, while also welcoming back our beloved, longtime favorite Neville Dickie. You will be delighted to hear your favorite musicians, bands, combos, and duos all playing, as is the mission of WCRF, ragtime and vintage American music. Our best musical ambassadors are elated audience members who relish their experiences and share tales with friends and family. Thank you! I am honored to be a part of this amazing WCRF team and so grateful to the WCRF Board for all their guidance and support over this past year. I would also like to express our thanks and gratitude to our dedicated crew members and sponsors. We are thrilled to welcome back our loyal community of volunteers this year! I can't wait to hear and see this year's festival sights & sounds!

Sincerely, *Virginia Tichenor*, Festival Director

YOUR WELL-BEING IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

We are taking precautions to help protect the health and well-being of festival participants, while still providing an enriching and enjoyable musical experience.

FACE MASKS. Face masks are a simple and effective way to prevent illness. To maximize protection against COVID-19 and reduce the risk of transmission, participants are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in public, especially if you have a weakened immune system or an underlying medical condition.

ENHANCED CLEANING. We'll work closely with our restaurant and hotel partners to ensure they have enhanced cleaning and disinfecting practices.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Wash your hands at every opportunity and maintain distance when possible. We will do everything we can, but it is also up to you and your fellow participants to do your part in following all the necessary precautions.

2023 WCRS Board of Directors

Robyn Drivon: *President*
Bub Sullivan: *Vice President*
Bob Gonzalez: *Secretary*
Marilyn Norton: *Treasurer*
Hal Krueger: *Assistant Treasurer*
Dan Lucas: *Director*
Warren Jennings: *Director*
Damit Senanayake: *Director*
Michael Chisholm: *Director*
Vincent Johnson: *Director*
Virginia Tichenor: *Festival Director*

Program Editors

Chris Bradshaw: *Text*
Lewis Motisher: *Graphics & Layout*

2023 WCRS Volunteer Coordinators

Volunteer Coordinators: **Dave & Kathy Becker**
Assistant to Director: **Lisa Gonick**
Badge Production: **Bob Gonzalez**
California Ballroom: **Crawford Paton, Joe Cruz**
Festival Director, Schedule, Youth: **Virginia Tichenor**
Junior Ballroom Sound/AV: **Jeff Green**
Mail: **Warren Jennings**
Musicians' Room Staff Coordinators: **Tom & Linda DeChaine**
Musician Transportation: **Mike Hart, Heather Paton, Jared DiBartolomeo**
Open Piano: **Nick Arteaga, Damit Senanayake**
Phone Contact: **Petra Sullivan**
Program, Mistakes, Whimsy: **Lewis Motisher**
Registration Table: **Dan Lucas, Marilyn Norton, Bob Gonzalez, Christy Eicher, Kathy Berg**
Seminars: **Michael Chisholm**
Sound: **Trudy Currier, Mark Kramer, Jeff Green, Lisa Gonick**
Youth Coordinator: **Chris Bradshaw**
Website: **Warren Jennings, Damit Senanayake, Lisa Lutton of DotLaunch.com**



Thanks to our fireless volunteers!

From that first welcome where you are greeted at the registration desk, to the final goodbyes, volunteers are with you every step of the way. They are the venue door monitors, the experienced sound crew, and those in the background handling the behind-the-scenes tasks. One such task is transporting the festival performers from the airport to the festival site. It takes a whole crew to do that! There are so many details that go into making a seamless, free-flowing and enjoyable festival and West Coast is blessed with generous volunteers supporting every conceivable festival need at every step of the way.

To those of you who are already part of our Volunteer Support Team, we thank you from the bottom of our ragtimey hearts! And to those of you who would be interested in volunteering next year, team leaders, Dave and Kathy Becker are eager and ready to welcome you into the fold. Check out the volunteer form on our newly designed website and welcome aboard! It's as simple as that.

To discuss volunteer opportunities, contact:

Dave Becker at: becker1945@att.net

Kathy Becker at: jazzgal57@att.net

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE





West Coast Ragtime Society

PO Box 13346

Sacramento, CA. 95813

www.WestCoastRagtime.com

FestivalInfo@WestCoastRagtime.com

1-866-724-9273 (RAG-WCRF) Toll Free



The West Coast Ragtime Festival

This great festival is run entirely by volunteers and depends on assistance from many people, including its attendees. A large amount of planning and preparation goes on behind the scenes, requiring a variety of skills. We're always looking for people to actively participate in planning and implementing this major musical and cultural event. Here are some ways that you can help out.

Volunteer

We need plenty of people to check badges as attendees enter the venues, but we also have a variety of other behind-the-scenes jobs during the festival and throughout the year. Contact Dave Becker at: becker1945@att.net or Kathy Becker at: jazzgal57@att.net to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Tell Your Friends

We know there are lots of people out there who enjoy ragtime but don't know that our festival exists. Tell them about the great music, seminars, dancing and shows.

Fill Out a Survey

We definitely care what people say. When you fill out a survey, it gets read. We use what those surveys tell us as we plan for future festivals. It's easy to fill out. So please take the time to tell us what you liked or disliked. Surveys are available at the Festival Registration Table and at the festival venues.

Help Us Recycle

To help us cut costs, please consider recycling your festival badge holder and lanyard. On your way out, drop these off at the Festival Registration desk.



THE RULES – We have just a few

SSSSHHH! HOLD IT DOWN! – Please be respectful to those around you who are listening to the music.

SEAT SAVING – NO seat saving once a set begins. We want to provide chairs to as many people as possible, if your friends are on the way, they need to arrive before the music starts. Site personnel have been instructed to see that seats are filled ten minutes after a performance begins.

RECORDING – Next to a live performance, the best way to support artists and to hear their music is to buy their CDs. That said, we do not prohibit recording of performances at the West Coast Ragtime Festival; small recording devices for personal use only. Posting videos and photos on social media is permitted and encouraged. But please, respect the artist's wishes if he or she does not want to be recorded or posted.

CELL PHONES – Mute phones before the music begins. Please be courteous and take all phone conversations outside of the venues. Please no flash with cameras or phones. (Cell phone lights are very distracting during the show.) Thank you.



Thanks to our donors and sponsors!

The West Coast Ragtime Society is deeply appreciative of all the monetary contributions, big or small, that are received to carry on the work of the society. We couldn't hold a festival without all of your wonderful support. We are indebted to you and very thankful for your generosity.

Many of the expenditures are quite visible at the time of the festival. You see the very nice venues, you hear the performers and you notice the beautiful pianos that don't get there by themselves. When a venue is shut down to let the pianos cool off a bit, you may have peeked in and noticed a piano technician adjusting and tuning things up to snuff. It's all about bringing you a world class musical experience and to do it right, takes a lot of money.

Those expenses are very visible. However, we wouldn't have a festival if we didn't have ongoing expenses. There is storage unit rental, an insurance premium, a PO box, and software programs for bookkeeping and graphics, occasional bank fees, occasional tax fees, and web design and hosting. There are even office supplies like stamps, envelopes, printer cartridges and IRS forms that add up. All of these are in some way related to the festival. We thank all of you who have donated in the past and hope you will continue with your contributions.

We also thank you for your donations to the separate youth fund that keep our youth programs alive and growing.



SACRAMENTO RAGTIME SOCIETY

The first American music to sweep the world, Ragtime was the rage of the first two decades of the 20th Century and continues on today. Whether a folk or classic rag, a march or two-step, a waltz, tango, or song, the hallmark of Ragtime is a syncopated rhythm. From Ragtime grew all kinds of blues and jazz, stride and novelty piano.

Founded in 1982, the SRS has many active local members and more on its international mailing list.

MONTHLY MUSIC MEETINGS

12:00 - 3:00 P.M.

on the last Sunday of every month at the

Straw Hat Pizza,
2929 Mather Field Rd,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.



Meetings are mostly music, with historical ragtime talk and announcements of upcoming events. In addition to solo and dual piano, you'll hear stringed instruments, an occasional horn, percussion and vocals. There is a core group of local performers and we often have guests from the Bay Area, the West Coast, and even internationally. Feel welcome to come by to listen or play. The atmosphere is casual, the audience supportive, and the admission is FREE.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

We publish a monthly newsletter to report our happenings, review recordings and festivals, and list upcoming ragtime events.

CONTACTS

General Information: Deborah Gale: (530) 758-6697
or email: GaleD@arc.losrios.edu
Merv Graham, membership co-ordinator: (530) 273-0487
or email: mervg@funkyfiddler.org
Marilyn Norton, newsletter: marilynorton222@gmail.com
Website: www.SacramentoRagtime.com



Those Amazing Kids!

by Chris Bradshaw, Youth Coordinator

This year, 29 youth from around the USA participated in the third annual Spotlighting Ragtime Youth virtual concert aired on October 21st. In case you missed it, look it up on YouTube. In fact all three of the concerts are up there. You could possibly spend a whole day immersed in youthful, ragtime bliss.

From the youngest putting their all into performances of teaching rags, up to the tippy top players who are firmly entrenched in the ragtime styles and playing like champs, you won't want to miss a minute. And we promise, that visually, it's all kids from the emcee to all the performers. No "gray hairs" in sight. (We pretty much confined them to the background where their help and support has been much appreciated and needed.)

Learning ragtime is a process, and when you hear the older players making difficult passages sound easy, it's because they traveled the same road as the younger players but are just further along on the path. They once were also dynamite on those teaching rags.

Isaiah Burton, Max Libertor, Anthony Sarginson, and Tadao Tomokiyo are this year's festival youth performers, are all first class. For the Master Class with **Martin Spitznagel**, you will hear Isaiah and Max, along with **Nicholas Iwan**, who at nine-years old will be performing first on the program with a teaching rag. All the bases are covered.

Since 2004, West Coast has had a strong, committed youth program. This is to enable ragtime music to continue on into the future. As with any good programs, we do appreciate your monetary support. It helps to produce our Spotlighting virtual concerts and offset the costs of bringing talented youth performers to the festival. So, enjoy the Saturday Master Class and the Sunday morning Youth Concert. Great fun for all!

**YOUTH
CONCERT**
Sunday
9:00 – 9:30 am
California Ballroom

Isaiah Burton, Max Libertor,
Anthony Sarginson



**NEW PIANOS | USED PIANOS | RENTALS
SERVICES | CONCERTS**

Pianos provided for the
2023 West Coast Ragtime Festival
by Piedmont Piano Company. We are a
family owned and operated business providing top
quality pianos to the San Francisco Bay Area,
Northern California and the world for over 40 years.

We are factory authorized representatives for
new Yamaha and Fazioli pianos, and we specialize
in fine used pianos and always stock a large
selection of pre-owned Steinways.

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1728 SAN PABLO AVENUE, OAKLAND CA
510-547-8188



Ragtime Store

Los Angeles Room
adjacent to the California Ballroom

Take the musicians home with you! The Ragtime Store has CDs, sheet music, and other merchandise from nearly all of the festival performers. It's a great way to continue enjoying the music that you heard at the festival.

Fri 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Sat 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Sun 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Hours Subject to Change

Hawthorn's Antique Audio

Los Angeles Room
adjacent to the California Ballroom

Hawthorn's Antique Audio will again offer a large selection of vintage sheet music and some records. Everyone is welcome to browse the large and diverse selection, as well as the \$1.00 bargain bins. The infamous "Disaster Box" will again be available, with all proceeds from the contents going directly to the Youth Program. Stop by and see if you can find your favorite tunes!

Fri noon – 6:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sun 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Hours Subject to Change



Formaggio Taverna & Patio is an upscale restaurant in a casual yet contemporary setting featuring savory Cal-Italian cuisine alongside various wines and signature cocktails. It's open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Fri. 6:30 AM – 10:00 AM breakfast a la carte only
Sat./Sun. 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM breakfast a la carte only
Fri – Sat. 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM Dinner only
Closed for Lunch
Closed on Sunday

Starbuck's this year is located in a kiosk in the lobby near the elevators with their usual assortment of coffee, pastries, and snacks. It's open for breakfast and lunch daily.

Friday 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Saturday 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Sunday 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM

The **Marriott** is providing Food Concessions in the Los Angeles Room adjacent to the California Ballroom. It's all alla carte with a variety of hot and cold options for lunch and dinner along with salty and sweet treats, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages.

Friday 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Saturday 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Sunday 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Another fine option is **Brookfields**. This restaurant is located at 11135 Folsom Blvd. directly across Sunrise Blvd. from the Marriott and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Phone: 1-916-638-2046

Finale Dinner and Post-Festival Party

The Finale dinner will be in the Rancho Cordova Room at 6:30 PM after the Festival Finale concert ends around 5:30 PM. The hotel is supplying a plated dinner and the bar is available. Seating capacity is limited, so buy your tickets ahead for this event to be assured a seat. Tickets are \$49 per person and will be on sale at the festival registration desk during the festival weekend. It's one last chance to hear great ragtime!

2023 **Seminars** 2023

All Seminars are in the Junior Ballroom. See yellow schedule for day/time.



Ragtime Era Dancing

Presented by Stan Isaacs and Karen Kalinsky

Stan Isaacs & Karen Kalinsky will discuss the rise of the new ragtime dances and demonstrate some of the most popular ones of the Ragtime Era, from Turkey Trot to the Fox trot and everything in between.



Ragtime Will Win the War: The Amazing History of World War One Songs

Presented by Frederick Hodges

The ever-popular Frederick Hodges will discuss the history of World War One ragtime songs.

In A Mist

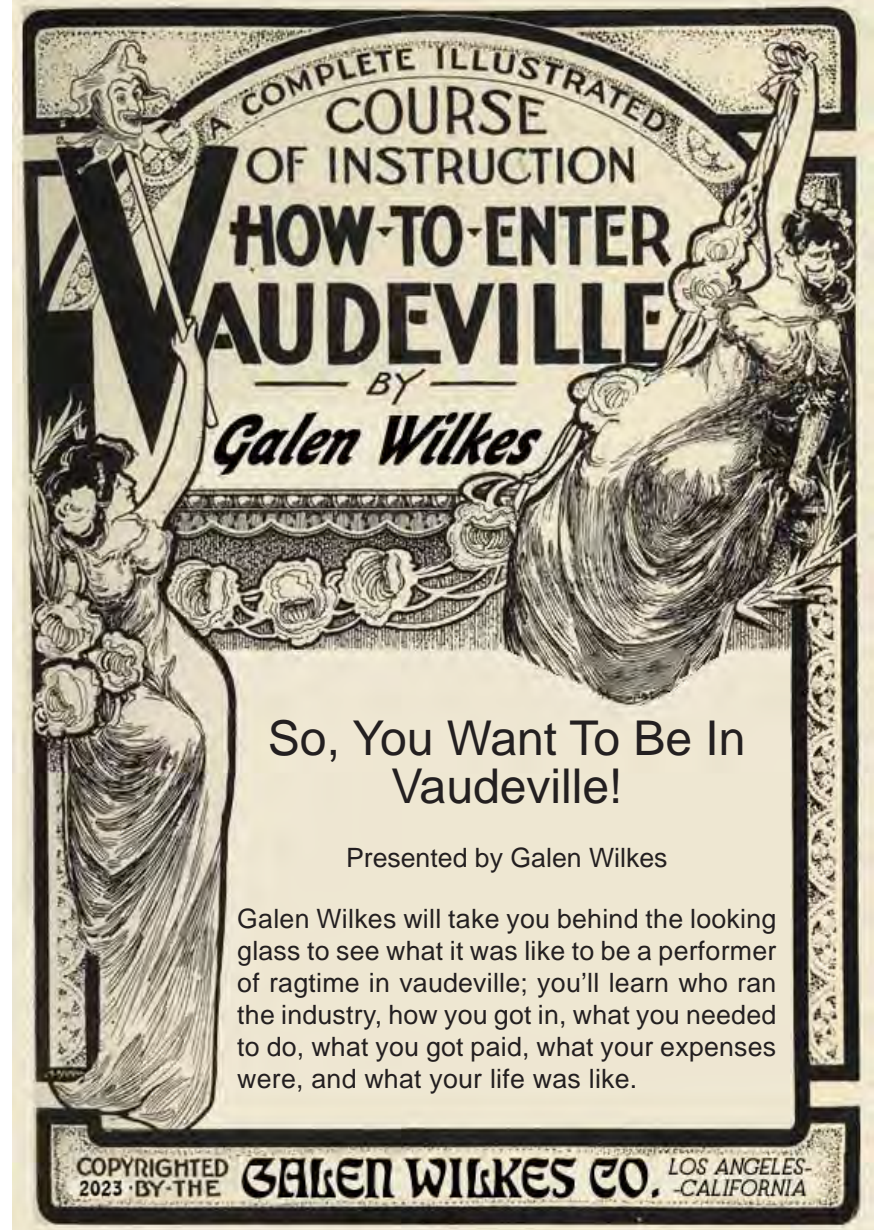
Presented by Richard Dowling

Richard will analyze the unique early impressionistic jazz work called *In A Mist* by Bix Beiderbecke. Richard will demonstrate a rare recording of Bix playing his original piece; in addition to performing it during this seminar.



2023 **Seminars** 2023

All Seminars are in the Junior Ballroom. See yellow schedule for day/time.



So, You Want To Be In Vaudeville!

Presented by Galen Wilkes

Galen Wilkes will take you behind the looking glass to see what it was like to be a performer of ragtime in vaudeville; you'll learn who ran the industry, how you got in, what you needed to do, what you got paid, what your expenses were, and what your life was like.



History of the Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band

Presented by Bruce Vermazen

The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band was formed in San Francisco as part of the gay liberation movement of the 1970s and presented its First (and last) Annual Farewell Concert in 1992. During the 1980s, the group met with some success: long runs at San Francisco and Berkeley venues, five LPs on the Stomp Off label, an award-winning radio program, and appearances at many ragtime and jazz festivals. Vermazen, the group's cornetist and emcee, will talk about the CRB's history, with lots of photographs and recordings.



Market St. Stomp: An exploration of St. Louis Jazz in the 1920's

Presented by TJ Müller

T.J. Müller is known for his charismatic approach to early jazz, energetic performances and passion for sharing the stories and history behind the music. T.J. will take a deep dive into the St. Louis Jazz scene of the 1920s.



2023 **Special Shows** 2023

Festival Sampler

Friday, 6:30 – 7:45 PM, California Ballroom



With so many performers, and a few who haven't appeared here for a few years, how do you decide who to hear? This is your chance to hear new and returning performers play in their own unique styles. Featured performers include: Brandon Au, Justin Au, Clint Baker, Ramona Baker, Michael Chisholm, Neville Dickie, Richard Dowling, Marty Eggers, Freebadge Serenaders, Kevin Gunia, Frederick Hodges, Charlie Judkins & Miss Maybelle, Carl Sonny Leyland, Max Libertor, TJ Müller, Will Perkins, Anthony Sarginson, Martin Spitznagel, Adam Swanson, John Reed Torres, Matt Tolentino, and Tadao Tomokiyo. Emceed by Matt Tolentino.

Silent Movies

Frederick Hodges

Friday, 10:00 PM – 11:00 PM, California Ballroom

Sailors, Beware! (1927) starring Laurel and Hardy

Come hear Frederick accompany the Hal Roach comedy, **Sailors Beware**, from 1927 before Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy were officially a team! See ad on Page 17.

Youth Master Class

Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 AM, Junior Ballroom

This is a Master Class led by festival headliner, Martin Spitznagel. This event is open to all festival attendees. Youth participants are Nicholas Iwan, Max Libertor, and Isaiah Burton. Come hear the future of ragtime!

Festival Sampler

With so many performers, how do you decide who to hear? This is your chance to hear new and returning performers play in their own unique styles.

Featuring

Brandon Au	Charlie Judkins & Miss Maybelle
Justin Au	Carl Sonny Leyland
Clint Baker	Max Libertor
Ramona Baker	TJ Müller
Michael Chisholm	Will Perkins
Neville Dickie	Anthony Sarginson
Richard Dowling	Martin Spitznagel
Marty Eggers	Adam Swanson
Freebadge Serenaders	John Reed Torres
Kevin Gunia	Matt Tolentino
Frederick Hodges	Tadao Tomokiyo

emceed by *Matt Tolentino*

Friday, 6:30 – 7:45 pm, California Ballroom

RAGTIME 1903

featuring

Heidi Eveyln Arnott, Clint Baker
 Michael Chisholm, Neville Dickie
 Richard Dowling, Robyn & Steve Drivon
 Marty Eggers, Kevin Gunia
 Frederick Hodges, Vincent Johnson
 Charlie Judkins & Miss Maybell
 Carl Sonny Leyland, TJ Müller, Don Neely
 Will Perkins, Sean Sharp,
 Adam Swanson, Matt Tolentino



Every tune in this show is from 1903, when ragtime was the rage in America.

EMCEED BY
SEAN SHARP

**Saturday, 6:30 – 7:45 pm,
 California Ballroom**

Special Shows



Ragtime 1903!

Saturday, 6:30 – 7:45 PM, California Ballroom

Every tune in this show is from 1903, when ragtime was the rage in America. Featured performers: Heidi Eveyln Arnott, Clint Baker, Michael Chisholm, Neville Dickie, Richard Dowling, Robyn & Steve Drivon, Marty Eggers, Kevin Gunia, Frederick Hodges, Vincent Johnson, Charlie Judkins & Miss Maybell, Carl Sonny Leyland, TJ Müller, Don Neely, Will Perkins, Sean Sharp, Adam Swanson, Matt Tolentino. Emceed by Sean Sharp.

Grand March

Saturday, 8:00 PM, Rancho Cordova

Hundreds of marchers parade through the hotel in the tradition of the ragtime era, led by the West Coast Marching Band. This year's marching band is comprised of musicians here at the festival, plus other surprise guests. So put on your finest attire and join the big parade!



Youth Concert

Sunday, 9:00 – 9:30 AM, California Ballroom

The future of ragtime depends on the ragtime playing youth of today, so our festival provides opportunities for outstanding young ragtimers to spotlight their talents. All our youth performers are in this one show. Isaiah Burton, Max Libertor and Anthony Sarginson. Emceed by Martin Spitznagel.



Festival Finale

Sunday, 4:00 – 5:30 PM, California Ballroom

Come hear highlights of the festival all in one show for the last special concert of the festival. In a variety show format, the show features many festival performers including: Ramona Baker, Isaiah Burton, Michael Chisholm, Neville Dickie, Richard Dowling, Robyn & Steve Drivon, Marty Eggers, Kevin Gunia, Frederick Hodges, Vincent Johnson, Charlie Judkins & Miss Maybelle, Carl Sonny Leyland, Max Libertor, TJ Müller, Will Perkins, John Reed-Torres, Martin Spitznagel, Bub & Petra Sullivan, Adam Swanson, Virginia Tichenor, and Matt Tolentino. Emceed by Richard Dowling.



Post-Festival Party

Sunday, 6:30 PM, Rancho Cordova

One last chance to hear great ragtime! The hotel provides a plated dinner and the bar is available. Seating capacity is limited, so buy your tickets ahead for this event to be assured a seat. Tickets are \$49 per person and will be on sale at the festival registration desk during the festival weekend.



Open Piano

Concierge Lounge, 10th Floor

Open Piano will be in the 10th floor concierge lounge. Check the yellow schedule for available times. Sign-up sheets for open piano slots will be at the registration table.

Do you have a composition you want to show off? Want to play a few rags in front of an audience? One of the many great features of our festival is the chance for aspiring performers to play a few of their tunes.

After Hours

Rancho Cordova

Friday & Saturday, 11:00 PM – ???

Sunday after the Post-Festival Dinner

When the scheduled sets are over, that's no reason to stop enjoying ragtime. That's when After Hours is getting started. Performers and attendees try out new tunes, do impromptu duets with others, or play more of the same great ragtime.

Only one rule: A player must yield the piano after a couple tunes, if someone else is waiting to play.



2023 **Special Solo Sets** 2023
 see yellow schedule for time and venue

Isaiah Burton

Tributes of Bolcom

Hear numbers by Eubie Blake, Ernesto Nazareth, and James P. Johnson, along with tribute rags to each by William Bolcom.



Richard Dowling

Romantic Ragtime

The title says it all! Richard Dowling plays a set of romantic ragtime.

Great Scott!

Richard Dowling plays a set featuring the music of Scott Joplin.



Charlie Judkins & Miss Maybelle

Classics of Tin Pan Alley and New York Ragtime

This set features works by composers who wrote for the New York branch of the Jerome Remick Company, such as George Botsford, Percy Wenrich and Mose Gumble, as well as other New York writers such as Walter Donaldson and Rube Bloom.

John Reed Torres

All Originals

John plays a set of his own original ragtime compositions.

RAGTIME RISING
 RISE & SHINE!
 HISTORIC SUTTER CREEK FESTIVAL RAGTIME
 2024

AUGUST 9th - 11th 2024
 Main Street, Downtown Sutter Creek
 209-304-0835

www.historicsuttercreekragtimefestival.com/

2023 **Special Group Sets** 2023
see yellow schedule for time and venue



The Pianophiends

Watch out – 6 hands on 2 pianos – Michael Chisholm, Kevin Gunia and Frederick Hodges! Expect some exciting two piano performances in this combination set featuring Michael Chisholm, Kevin Gunia and Frederick Hodges on two pianos.

Banjos!

A special set that features Greg Sabin, TJ Muller, and Jeff Green on banjos. Joined by Brandon Au on tuba.



Recreating the “Tom Brier and Saloon Sweeties” Trio

This set is a recreation of the former “Tom Brier and the Saloon Sweeties” trio of Tom Brier, Julia Riley, and Kitty Wilson. This set features Anthony Sarginson on piano, Michael Chisholm on flute, and Max Libertor on washboard.

2023 **Special Group Sets** 2023
see yellow schedule for time and venue

West Coast Ragtime Orchestra

Back by popular demand, musicians here at the festival come together to play a set of ragtime-era stock arrangements for your listening and dancing pleasure. Organized and led by Marty Eggers.



Neville is joined by Marty on bass, Clint on drums, Justin on trumpet and Brandon on trombone. You don't want to miss this!

**Just Peachy:
Anthony Sarginson & Max Libertor**

This piano duo will play a set of all originals by Tom Brier.



The Big Three

John Reed Torres and Vincent Johnson play classic ragtime by the big 3 classic ragtime composers: Scott Joplin, Joseph Lamb and James Scott.

Special Venue Note

Due to remodeling work on the hotel, much of the ground floor is closed for construction. Because of this, there are fewer venues this year and other changes as well.

There are now three venues on the ground floor, the Rancho Cordova Room, the California Ballroom, and the Junior Ballroom. A fourth venue, the Concierge Lounge, has been added on the tenth floor, accessible via the elevators in the lobby.

The Ragtime Store and Food Concessions are located in the Los Angeles Room which is part of, but separate from, the large California Ballroom.

Please be advised that the restrooms across from the California Room may occasionally be closed. There are additional restrooms located off the lobby nearby.

Also this year, Starbucks will be operating out of a kiosk in the elevator lobby.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and hope to be back to our usual configuration next year!

VENUE MAP

Because of remodeling in progress, there will only be three music venues on the ground floor this year. A fourth music venue is located in the Concierge Lounge on the tenth floor, accessible from the elevators in the lobby.

CLOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION

- AUDIENCE ENTRANCE
- PERFORMER ENTRANCE

Rancho Cordova - Performance Venue, Dancing
Los Angeles Room - Food Concessions, Store
California Ballroom - Concert venue, special show

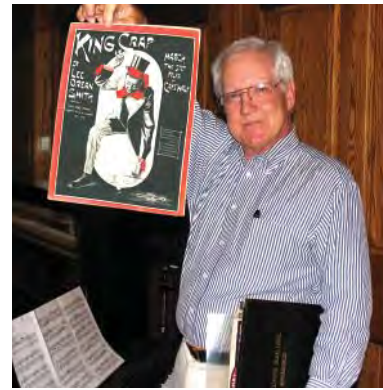
Junior Ballroom - Performance venue, seminars
Concierge Lounge - Performance venue on the 10th Floor- accessible from elevators in the lobby

THE 2023 West Coast
RAGTIME
 Festival

PERFORMERS

Elliott Adams	Key System
Heidi Evelyn Arnott	Rhythm Ranslers
Nick Arteaga	Carl Sonny Leyland
Brandon & Justin Au	Max Libertor
Clint Baker	TJ Muller
Ramona Baker	Don Neely
Chris & Jack Bradshaw	& Carla Normand
Isaiah Burton	Pacific Coast
Michael Chisholm	Ragtime Orchestra
Jared DiBartolomeo	Will Perkins
Neville Dickie	John Reed-Torres
Richard Dowling	Anthony Sarginson
Steve & Robyn Drivon	Sean Sharp
Marty Eggers	Martin Spitznagel
Freebadge Serenaders	Bub & Petra Sullivan
Kevin Gunia	Sullivans/Drivons
Frederick Hodges	Adam Swanson
Stan Isaacs	Virginia Tichenor
Vincent M. Johnson	Matt Tolentino
Charlie Judkins	Tadao Tomokiyo
& Miss Maybell	Bruce Vermazen
	Galen Wilkes

ELLIOTT ADAMS



Elliott Adams has been playing ragtime since age ten and is now known internationally as a ragtime performer, composer, collector, historian, and writer. Besides playing solo piano, he will be teaming up with Michael Chisholm for one set.

His extensive collection of original copies of ragtime, blues, and early jazz sheet music is available to researchers, musicians, and publishers. He has made several notable solo recordings on the Stomp Off and PianoMania labels. Elliott performed at the first Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival in Sedalia, Missouri in 1974, and has participated in every West Coast Ragtime Festival since it began.

HEIDI EVELYN ARNOTT



Heidi Evelyn, a vintage style vocalist and bandleader based in the Bay Area, specializes in early American music. Back by popular demand, she's making her second appearance at this year's West Coast Ragtime Festival and is excited to sing songs in ragtime-era vocal stylings. She'll be teaming up on sets with musical friends, Clint Baker and Frederick Hodges.

Heidi ministers music through private piano and voice students. You can hear Heidi vocalizing as a singer/band leader in a Bay Area jazz band. Feel free to ask her about her interests in coffee, outdoor adventures and Lindy Hop.

NICK ARTEAGA

Nick's interest in ragtime began as a teenager in his hometown of Sacramento where he taught himself to play on his grandmother's player piano. Later, after some formal lessons with Dr. Robert Bowman, he began performing professionally in a Chinese restaurant, accompanying singers at universities and working as a church musician. Nick began taking ragtime seriously after checking out a Sacramento Ragtime Society meeting around 2011. A few years later he became a regular performer at the West Coast Ragtime and Sutter Creek Festivals. Although Nick specializes in ragtime, he has also introduced ragtime festival audiences to obscure Central and South American syncopated piano music as well as his own intricate ragtime compositions. Besides his musical activities Nick has helped run his parents investment business in Chico, CA and has also worked in government. He currently resides in Chico, in a small 1920s house that he restored.



BRANDON AU

Trombonist, Brandon Au, along with his brothers (Gordon, Brandon and Justin) has been playing the traditional jazz of New Orleans ever since their uncle, **High Sierra** trombonist **Howard Miyata**, turned them on to the music at an early age. Among them, they have amassed three music degrees and performed with various ensembles at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Preservation Hall, and the Sydney Opera House, as well as at the Monterey, Redwood Coast, Montreux, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage, and North Sea jazz festivals.

Brandon and Justin Au will be teaming up with the **Freebadge Serenaders**, **Neville Dickie**, **Marty Eggers** and **Clint Baker**. You are in for a treat.



JUSTIN AU

Justin Au, performer and Music Educator with the Vacaville Unified School District, is an alumnus of the highly acclaimed Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society's jazz education program. Playing a variety of jazz styles, he has toured New York, Japan, Puerto Rico, China, and Brazil and has filled in on trumpet for many well-known groups such as the **Creole Syncopators**, **Steelin' Dan**,



High Sierra, and **Cornet Chop Suey**. Justin has also appeared as a guest trumpeter at many more festivals and can be heard regularly with various groups such as **The Red Skunk Band**, **Au Brothers Jazz Band**, and the **Harley White Jr. Orchestra**. Justin has also served as co-director of the official youth band of the Basin Street Regulars Jazz Society in Pismo Beach and has worked with numerous school ensembles both as a clinician and substitute teacher. Look for the Au brothers performing with **Freebadge Serenaders**, **Neville Dickie**, **Marty Eggers** and **Clint Baker**.

CLINT BAKER

Clint Baker started playing clarinet in 1980. His first school band director needed trombonists and quickly switched Clint to trombone. In the years that followed he would learn additional instruments including tuba, tenor banjo, and drums. He has performed at the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Jubilee (later called the "Sacramento Music Festival") every year from 1988 until its demise in 2017.

In 1990 he created **Clint Baker's New Orleans Jazz Band** (1990–2000). For over 20 years, Clint has led a New Orleans style jazz ensemble, **The Cafe Borrone All Stars**, at Cafe Borrone in Menlo Park. Clint also performs regularly with seven other well-known bands and he is a noted jazz educator.

Clint will appear on sets of others playing bass or tuba or perhaps holding some drumsticks. He is **Ramona Baker's** father!





RAMONA BAKER

Multi-talented Ramona S. Baker is the daughter of **Clint Baker** and sister of **Riley Baker**. She is a pianist, historian, collector, artist, and a contributing writer to *The Syncopated Times*. Ramona has been a regular youthful pianist at the West Coast Ragtime Festival since 2012. She has also performed at the Sutter Creek ragtime festival and in 2016, her first trip to the Midwest, performed with **Virginia Tichenor** and

Max Morath at the Scott Joplin Ragtime festival. She's studied recordings from 1888 to 1920 for nearly a decade. Her most focused interest lies in the studio pianists and musicians, such as Fred Hylands, Frank P. Banta, and Justin Ringleben.

Ramona Baker is well-known to our festival goers for her seminars on these unjustly forgotten figures from the early years of the recording industry. Ramona has recently moved to New York City where she leads tours in the Bowery.

JACK & CHRIS BRADSHAW

With 88 keys and 20 fingers at their disposal, classically trained ragtime piano duo artists, Jack and Chris Bradshaw of Gilroy, California, righteously proclaim having the most piano keys held down at any one time — many of them right! Not going for speed, their quest is for clarity and classic ragtime charm as their fingers dance off the keys to Jack's four-hand arrangements of popular rags, cakewalks, marches and novelty numbers.

This lively pair gets around and has appeared at the Sutter Creek, Scott Joplin, Blind Boone, Shaniko, West Coast, Oakhurst, Fullerton Ragfest, and Fresno Flats Festivals. They have also performed at the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo. The rollicking road to ragtime thus far has taken them to eleven states, Canada and Switzerland.



ISAIAH BURTON

Isaiah, who lives in Fairfield, California, is 18 years old and a freshman at Biola University as a piano performance major. After coming to our attention at the 2019 West Coast Youth Competition, Isaiah has been a youth performer in the past three West Coast Ragtime Festivals. In February 2022, Isaiah performed a concerto movement with the Solano Symphony Orchestra as a prize winner in Solano County's Young Artist's Competition. While under the tutelage of Dr. Jana Olvera during his high school years, he now studies with Dr. Li-Shan Hung.

Eclectic by nature, Isaiah loves playing both ragtime and classical music and exploring African-American Spirituals, Mexican Rancheras, and playing classical/flamenco guitar. Outside of music, he enjoys outdoor activities, poetry and literature, and spending time with his family and friends.



MICHAEL CHISHOLM

Michael Chisholm, currently residing in Auburn, California, has been known to the California ragtime circuit since 2013. Originally from Sugar Land Texas, his interest in ragtime began at a young age when he saw Jo Ann Castle perform on reruns of *The Lawrence Welk Show*. At age 10, his family was given a piano and he immediately

started teaching himself to play. Since learning to play piano, composition quickly became a knack for him, having penned several rags, cakewalks, marches, and intermezzos.

Constant combing of the Internet for sheet music began his interest in collecting original copies of ragtime music. His scope now includes all music printed from 1800 to 1950, where his collection presently numbers over 75,000 sheets. Michael is currently on the Board of Directors for the West Coast Ragtime and Historic Sutter Creek Ragtime Festivals, and has been featured in the Santa Cruz Ragtime, Orange County Ragtime, and Old Town Music Hall Ragtime Festivals.



JARED DiBARTOLOMEO

A lifelong enthusiast of ragtime and vintage piano music, Jared DiBartolomeo was first exposed to ragtime at the age of two when his father played the *Maple Leaf Rag*. At age eight, he began formal piano lessons. After receiving a folio of Scott Joplin's rags and some recordings, Jared dove deeper into ragtime enthusiasm. For several years, under the mentorship of ragtime greats **Marty Eggers** and **Virginia Tichenor**, he expanded his repertoire to include the works of other ragtime composers, as well as novelty piano and stride piano. In recent years, he has focused on the more sophisticated novelty genres of the 1920s, from the early works of such composers as Roy Bargy and Zez Confrey, to the later impressionistic and introspective styles of Lee Sims and Bix Beiderbecke.



Jared has performed at West Coast since 2005 and has had numerous opportunities to perform at San Francisco's Pier 23, plus the Sutter Creek and Santa Cruz ragtime festivals.

NEVILLE DICKIE

A native of England's County Durham, Neville Dickie is among the most accomplished stride and boogie-woogie pianists on either side of the Atlantic. As jazz authority **Tex Wyndham** suggests in his liner notes to Dickie's "Eye Opener," he's "a world-class keyboard shark." A regular performer on BBC Radio, Dickie's made hundreds of appearances as a soloist or with his trio and is one of the few British jazz players to score with a hit single, "The Robins Return," in 1969. He continues to be embraced by British jazz enthusiasts, and his 1975 album, "Back to Boogie," has sold more than 100,000 copies. He's produced scores of records and can be heard on hundreds of jazz recordings including several recordings with French pianist **Louis Mazetier**. As John Featherstone writes in Storeyville, "Neville Dickie's devastatingly accurate left hand shows why, at any stride convention, he'll have a place reserved at the top table."



RICHARD DOWLING

Hailed by *The New York Times* as "an especially impressive fine pianist," Steinway Artist Richard Dowling appears throughout America in recitals, at music festivals, and as soloist with orchestras. Reviews praise him as "a master of creating beautiful sounds with impeccable control of colors and textures," as "a musician with something to say, the skill to say it and the magnetic power to make you want to listen," and for giving "a superb recital that left the audience craving for more at the end." In 2017 Dowling performed the complete works of Scott Joplin in twin historic sold-out recitals at Carnegie Hall — the first pianist in the world to perform the nearly four-hour cycle, all from memory. His *Complete Joplin* 3-CD set was nominated for a Grammy Award. Max Morath says, "Dowling's mastery of Joplin invokes a tenderness that charms us and a technical command that inspires our admiration."



www.richard-dowling.com

ROBYN & STEVE DRIVON



Robyn, tuba
Steve; drums, vocals, tenor guitar

The Drivons became part of the West Coast ragtime movement in 2003 and have since become known to many ragtime fans and musicians as familiar and welcomed performers in festivals and concerts in California. Since 2009, the Drivons have played as a duo. Robyn

on tuba while Steve croons some of their favorite ragtime era songs adding rhythm and chords on his tenor guitar.

Over the years, Steve and Robyn have enjoyed performing with **JARS** featuring **Anne** and **Jeff Barnhart**, **The Porcupine Ragtime Ensemble**, and with **Chris** and **Jack Bradshaw** as **The Ragnolia Ragtette**.



MARTY EGGERS

Marty Eggers is well known on the West Coast as a top-notch ragtime pianist and bassist. His music career began in Sacramento where as a teenager he helped found the Sacramento Ragtime Society. Marty has played with numerous San Francisco Bay Area jazz and ragtime groups, most notably **John Gill's San Francisco JazzBand** and the **Black Diamond Jazz Band**. His talent and versatility have led to playing

in backup bands for both the late Leon Redbone and Butch Thompson. He is also a skilled composer and arranger of ragtime and traditional jazz.

Marty performs regularly at the American Legion post in Larkspur, CA. Check the West Coast website for his listings. He is married to ragtime pianist **Virginia Tichenor** and is a past president of the West Coast Ragtime Society.

FREEBADGE SERENADERS



Greg Sabin, banjo, vocals; Patrick Skiffington, washboard, vocals;
Justin Au, cornet, Brandon Au, tuba

Greg Sabin made the poor choice to play the banjo back in the 20th century. He then spent his formative years traveling the world looking for the few people who still appreciate this rare and much-maligned art form. Having found no purchase overseas, he returned to the states and teamed up with a group of like-minded individuals who love jazz, pizza, and beer, but not necessarily in that order. When not playing, Greg busies himself with financial planning, and restaurant criticism. He is lucky to have found a wonderful wife who enjoys his banjo playing (mostly because it keeps him from playing the trombone.)

Greg Sabin appears with The Freebadge Serenaders, which includes **Patrick Skiffington** on washboard. They'll be joined by **Brandon Au** on tuba and **Justin Au** on cornet.

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KEVIN GUNIA

Kevin Gunia is a composer, pianist, and educator. He has composed solo and chamber works, large ensemble music, and collaborative pieces such as opera scenes and works for dance. He has written for ensembles such as the **Nois Saxophone Quartet**, the **Ivlas Quartet**, and the **Boulder Altitude Directive**. He is the recipient of the

2021–2022 George Lynn Memorial Award. Gunia also works as a freelance accompanist and music transcriber. He has transcribed the ten disc improvisations of George Gershwin, as well as works by Dana Suesse and Jelly Roll Morton.

As a pianist, Gunia has performed solo recitals, as well as collaborative programs. He has performed the past two years at the West Coast Ragtime Festival and at the Sutter Creek Historical Festival. Composers have written new works for him to perform. Gunia is currently a graduate student at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he studies with Carter Pann and Michael Theodore.



You might not realize it if you're not a piano tuner, but those folks need quiet so they can get the piano tuned just right. So if you're in a venue where tuning is going on, please help out by being quiet until they're finished. Better yet, go to another venue and enjoy some ragtime.

Thanks!



FREDERICK HODGES

Hailed in the press as one of the best concert pianists in the world, Frederick Hodges specializes in late romantic music as well as Broadway and Hollywood musicals of the first half of the twentieth century by America's best composers like George Gershwin and Cole Porter. He maintains a busy concert schedule of stage, television, radio, and film appearances around the globe. Additionally, he is a sought-after silent film accompanist for both live performances and DVD. He performs regularly at the Hollywood Heritage Museum, the Nilas Essanay Silent Film Museum in California, the Cinecon Film Festival, The TCM Classic Film Festival in Hollywood, and at silent film festivals around the country. Frederick has also performed widely at music festivals, such as the Sacramento Music Festival, the West Coast Ragtime Festival, and the Sedalia Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival. His seminar this year is "Ragtime Will Win the War: The Amazing History of World War One Songs."

www.frederickhodges.com

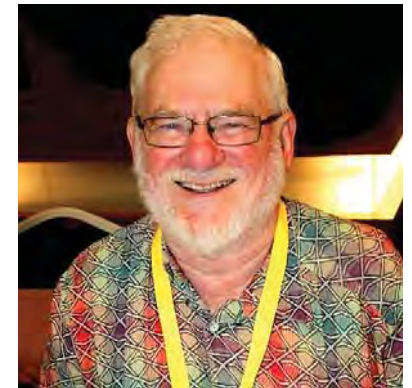
www.frederickhodges.com

STAN ISAACS

Stan Isaacs, a vintage dance and folk dance leader and teacher, began teaching folk dance around 1958 while attending Antioch College in Ohio.

Stan arrived in the Bay Area in 1964, and soon began teaching at the UC Berkeley folk dance club, plus he also danced in San Francisco, Menlo Park, and Stanford. During this period he taught workshops as the opportunity arose, and taught at Kolo Festivals, which were memorable occasions in San Francisco. In the mid-1980s, he discovered Vintage Dancing when he sponsored a workshop with Richard Powers at his folk dance group.

Stan, and his wife **Karen Kalinsky**, will be presenting an entertaining seminar where he will discuss the rise of the new ragtime dances. They will be demonstrating some of the most popular ones of the Ragtime Era, from Turkey Trot to the Fox trot and everything in between.





VINCENT MATTHEW JOHNSON

Vincent seeks to preserve, encourage, and revitalize ragtime, this beloved, quintessentially American music. His pianistic approach is informed by a wide range of syncopated styles, from classic ragtime to stride and early jazz piano, and the novelty piano stylings. As a transcriber he has notated works by **John Reed-Torres** and Eric Marchese.

He has also judged at the West Coast Youth Piano Competition and at the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing New Rag Contest.

As a composer, The New York Times, columnist John McWhorter called him “a composer who has taken the torch passed on since Scott Joplin and created ragtime that continues in the Bolcom spirit..” Vincent’s rags are featured on **Max Keenlyside’s** album, *Invincible Syncopations: The New Ragtime Music of Vincent Matthew Johnson* on Rivermont Records.

Vincent performs regularly at ragtime clubs and festivals throughout California, and is known to moonlight at Downtown Los Angeles’ storied 1642 Bar with friends **Eve Elliot** and **John Reed-Torres**.

CHARLIE JUDKINS & MISS MAYBELL

We are delighted that newlyweds Charlie Judkins and Miss Maybell are participating in the West Coast Ragtime Festival this year. They share a mutual, lifelong passion for pre-1920s popular music and have complimentary musical skills. With a wink to the pretentious barrelhouse *hoi palloi*, thus was born, “Miss Maybell” who is accompanied by Charlie. (Miss Maybell’s “real” name is Lauren Sansaricq.)



Their repertoire is built largely on obscure songs and verses, skillfully imbued with life, lilt, and spontaneity to boot. Lauren and Charlie are themselves serious early 78 RPM record collectors. They know, and revere, the details about the recordings of the pioneering composers, instrumentalists, vaudevillian singers, and lyricists, and familiarize themselves with the nuanced vocal and instrumental differences between versions of given songs sung by the same singers on various “takes” and record labels. These are a “not to miss” duo!



KEY SYSTEM RHYTHM RAMBLERS

The Key System Rhythm Ramblers features Virginia Tichenor on piano, Jeff Green on banjo/guitar/vocals, and Lisa Gonick on vocals/ukulele. Playing music of yesteryear—traditional jazz, early swing, ragtime, novelty, and blues—their infectious rhythms will keep your toes tapping, feet moving, and faces smiling!

CARL SONNY LEYLAND

Born in the south of England in 1965, Carl Sonny Leyland took up piano at age fifteen. His inspiration was the Boogie Woogie music of Albert Ammons, Pete Johnson & Meade Lux Lewis.

In 1988, he appeared at the world-renowned New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and furthered his exploration of piano genres, including Blues, Country, R&B, Rockabilly, Rock and Roll, and of course traditional jazz and ragtime, but Boogie and Barrelhouse piano remain his favorite music to play.

He has toured Europe and the US as a solo act and with bands such as **Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets** and **Big Sandy and His Flyrite Boys**. Sonny also authentically sings the blues and it is his ability to recreate obscure and primitive styles combined with the originality and soulfulness that makes him one of today’s most exciting musicians. In 2010, Sonny was inducted into the Boogie Woogie Hall of Fame. He has numerous CDs for sale at the festival.










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MAX LIBERTOR



At age 15, Max Libertor is burning up the keys with his wonderful playing of ragtime's hardest pieces — namely those of Tom Brier. He is self-taught and got interested in the works of Tom when he discovered his music online. Max is a transcriber, arranger and composer, much like his idol. He also plays some mean classic rags as well.

Since being discovered as a walk-in at last year's West Coast Ragtime Festival, Max's life has been blooming. He is this year's winner of the Ragtime Kid award at the Scott Joplin Festival in Sedalia. He was also on the lineup for this year's Sutter Creek Festival.

A sophomore at West Torrance High School, where he lives, music is his favorite subject but he also enjoys his Spanish class. Max's favorite key is G-flat. He hopes to continue composing, playing, and performing at festivals for the rest of his life.

TJ MÜLLER



T.J. Müller is a bandleader and multi-instrumentalist living in St. Louis, Missouri, where he directs The Arcadia Dance Orchestra and The Gaslight Squares. Born in Canterbury, England, T.J. began playing traditional jazz cornet with his family band, led by his father, Rev. Anton Müller. While

living in Edinburgh, the American touring group, **Pokey Lafarge**, offered T.J. a job. During his time in Lafarge, T.J. performed on The David Letterman show, The Grand Ole Opry, A Prairie Home Companion, and the PBS music documentary, American Epic. Eventually T.J. settled in St. Louis and began working with **The St. Louis Ragtimers**, playing alongside cornet player **Bill Mason**. After leaving Lafarge, T.J. established his own groups and began specializing in the historic jazz music of Missouri. Weekly, T.J. can be found performing around St. Louis, and preaching about good St. Louis music, from Ragtime to Swing.



DON NEELY

Appearing for the first time at the West Coast Festival, is Don Neely, the founder of the long-running **Royal Society Jazz Orchestra**. The California-based bandleader, multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and composer has more than 40 years of musical experience playing tunes from the 1920s and 1930s. He expanded the audience for hot syncopated music beyond the Bay area without sacrificing authenticity.

Dapper Don, with his silver hair and mustache making him look like the elder statesman, he has become, still performs around California with other bands and his own 11-piece Royal Jazz Society Orchestra. He will be performing with **Carla Normand**.

CARLA NORMAND



New to the festival this year is Carla Normand, an illustrator by profession, who pursued a lifelong passion when she began singing lessons in her twenties. This led to her appearing in clubs around San Francisco, performing vintage songs in her own vintage style. One night, Don Neely went to see her perform in a small cabaret in San Francisco's Castro District. He was so impressed that later that year, to Carla's great delight, Neely asked her to join his orchestra.

Since that time, Carla has recorded with the **Royal Society Jazz Orchestra** and has a solo album entitled, "Just You, Just Me," featuring love songs accompanied by an outstanding sextet led by Don Neely. Carla's concert and other performances with the orchestra have taken her all across the country, including opening nights for the **S.F. Symphony, S.F. Opera, S.F. Ballet**, ocean cruises and scores of San Francisco society events. Welcome to the festival, Carla!



PACIFIC COAST RAGTIME ORCHESTRA

from left to right:

Michael Chisholm, piano
 Susanne Wong, violin
 Judy McCall, cello
 Adam Roderick, drums

Mike Hart, tuba
 Sue Horn, flute
 Mike Young, clarinet
 Brian Gayek, trombone
 James Rogers, leader, cornet



Bruce Vermazen

We are delighted to welcome special guest, **Bruce Vermazen**, for our second set. Also, the amazing and talented Great Grand Niece of Scott Joplin, **Joyce Grant**, is our proudly-featured guest vocalist for the Saturday evening set.



Joyce Grant

Organized in 1980 by music teachers in coastal towns south of San Francisco, the Pacific Coast Ragtime Orchestra brings the sounds of the Ragtime Era to life. Their spirited, authentic style invigorates the music of such ragtime legends as Scott Joplin, Joseph Lamb, Eubie Blake, James Scott, Percy Wenrich and Irving Berlin.

The orchestra has performed at several other festivals, including the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, the Scott Joplin Festival in Sedalia, Missouri, and the Historic Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival. PCRO has several fine recordings available here at the festival.



WILL PERKINS

Will Perkins has been performing at ragtime and jazz festivals since the age of fourteen. His love for traditional jazz and ragtime piano has led him to perform at music festivals around the United States and beyond. Will has been a featured performer at the Bohem Ragtime and Early Jazz Festival in Kecskemet, Hungary, and at the Buenos Aires Ragtime Festival in Argentina. He has also performed at the West Coast, Scott Joplin, Sutter Creek and many other festivals around the country. When Will isn't playing the piano, you will probably find him working on them! Professionally, Will is a piano technician who currently resides in Idaho Falls, Idaho with his wife McKenna.



JOHN REED-TORRES

Los Angeles native, John Reed-Torres, has performed and lectured at various venues domestically and abroad for over a decade.

John has written over twenty rags, including collaborations with Vincent Johnson, and Reginald Robinson

(the first collaboration in ragtime between two African American composers since the early 20th century).

Being of a diverse ethnic heritage, John believes the history of ragtime music has an important place in the development of American musical culture, and the African American diaspora.

When John isn't driving an LA City Metro bus, he just might be performing with Eve Elliot, in downtown Los Angeles, where they enjoy a residency at the esteemed 1642 bar near downtown, for ragtime Tuesdays — a weekly engagement.

ANTHONY SARGINSON



Anthony Sarginson began studying piano at the age of 13, after an awe-inspiring trip to the Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival. He is an avid performer of Tom Brier's work and holds importance on interpreting pieces in ways one would not expect.

Anthony has been a West Coast Youth performer since 2017 and has also appeared at the Oakhurst and Sutter Creek Festivals. Now 22, he is completing his senior year in piano at Fresno State University.

As a collaborative pianist, Anthony is the pianist alongside the **Wind Symphony of Clovis**, a group of Professional musicians, including several Fresno State faculty members as well as members of the **Fresno Philharmonic**. He also performs with the Symphony orchestra at his university under the direction of Thomas Lowenheim and is preparing to compete in the Spring 2024 concerto competition. A successful audition would allow him to perform the work with a full orchestra.

A Reminder To WCRS Members

The Annual WCRS Members' Meeting will be held 8:30 AM, Sunday, November 19, 2023, in the **Tenth Floor Concierge Lounge**, for the election of the Board of Directors. Your participation, whether in person or by proxy, is vital to the continued well-being of the Society and the festival it presents. Proxy forms are available at the festival registration desk, where you can also renew your membership. Everyone is welcome.



Stay updated on all the latest ragtime news

www.WestCoastRagtime.com
official website for the West Coast Ragtime Society

www.SacramentoRagtime.com
official website for the Sacramento Ragtime Society

SEAN SHARP

Sean Sharp will be the host for this year's historical show: Ragtime 1903. He has performed with The Great Nickelodeon Show at the Turner Classic Movies Festival in Hollywood, the Giornate del Cinema Muto in Italy, the Telluride Film Festival, the Niles Esanay Film Museum and San Francisco's Castro Theatre, among other venues. At past West Coast Ragtime Festivals, Sean has presented illustrated-songs shows; he has worked with illustrated songs for over twenty years and has created shows for many prestigious events. He is an original member of San Francisco's 42nd Street Moon Productions and has appeared in over twenty of that company's productions. His other credits include singing in the **San Francisco Grace Cathedral Men's Choir** and performing with the **Lamplighters** and the **Great American Melodrama**.



MARTIN SPITZNAGEL

Martin Spitznagel has been hailed as a remarkable, astonishing, and "face-melting" musical talent. His virtuosic technique, sophisticated touch, and sparkling repertoire have left audiences across the country enthralled with America's first popular music, Ragtime.

Whether performing the masterworks of Scott Joplin or the score to Star Wars, Martin is truly at home on the piano bench. He found success early, winning a Yamaha Disklavier at the age of 14. Despite this early success, Martin was largely self-guided until 1998, when he met Eastman School of Music pianist and pedagogue, Dr. **Tony Caramia**. Under Caramia's tutelage Martin flourished, developing a keen ear for melody, a gift for improvisation, and a talent for composition.

In the years since, Martin has performed across the country at venues large and small, including featured performances at the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival in Sedalia, MO and the West Coast Ragtime Festival in Sacramento, CA. Martin will be the Master Teacher for the Youth Master Class this year. www.martinspitznagel.com.



BUB & PETRA SULLIVAN

For over 25 years, Bub and Petra have been putting their hearts and souls into ragtime, especially for the West Coast Ragtime Society. A Sacramento native, Petra has a degree in Music and teaches violin and piano. Bub, originally from Chicago, also studied classical piano as a child, then later took up string instruments before discovering ragtime. Recent performances have included a gig at St. Rose's and the Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival. Whether strumming on one of his several interesting instruments or adding vocals, Bub always has Petra by his side, either on her violin or at the piano. And either as part of larger groups or as a duo, these two make good music together.



SULLIVANS & DRIVONS

The Sullivans & Drivons offer an array of contemporary and classic rags, including Latin tangos and waltzes, plus ragtime and novelty songs. They are a winning combo with Bub Sullivan on mandolin, Petra Sullivan on piano, Robyn Drivon playing tuba and Steve Drivon adding his whiz bang percussion.

Among the pillars of the Sacramento and West Coast Ragtime Societies, the Sullivans have been part of the ragtime scene for over 25 years. Most recently, Bub & Petra have played mandolin and violin with the **Poultry In Motion** band at the Vashon Island Country Club and at the Dockton Center for the Arts, both in Washington state.

As for the Drivons, also active in SRS and WCRS, Robyn (tuba) has "oom-pahed" with orchestras, symphonic bands, and brass ensembles in California and the Midwest, including several European tours. Steve (percussion and vocals) toured internationally for decades with the **Port City Jazz Band**, the **Washboard Wizards** and the **Rock Bottom Boys**.





ADAM SWANSON

Adam Swanson performs 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. 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, Switzerland and Australia. He has worked with such musicians as John Arpin 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. www.adamswanson.com.



VIRGINIA TICHENOR

Virginia Tichenor has been consumed by ragtime her entire life. She is the daughter of the late Trebor Tichenor, noted ragtime scholar, pianist, collector and founder of the **St. Louis Ragtimers**.

Always at the crossroads of the ragtime revival, Virginia grew up with legends like Eubie Blake, Max Morath

and Butch Thompson chatting in her own living room. She studied music at the St. Louis Community Association for the Arts and took advanced training from concert pianist, John Phillips.

In 1998, Virginia released her first solo recording, *Virginia's Favorites* which includes four two-piano duets with her father. Other CDs include *The Tichenor Trio* and *Ragtime Reunion*, featuring Virginia with her multi-talented family. She performs regularly at the American Legion post in Larkspur, CA, and is pianist for the **Zenith Jazz Band**. She also plays the drums with the **Crown Syncopators**. Virginia is Festival Director of the West Coast Ragtime Festival.

MATT TOLENTINO



Texas native Matt Tolentino's musical adventures began at age eleven, playing clarinet in his elementary school band. Although he is a multi-instrumentalist — playing accordion, clarinet, saxophone, tuba, piano, tenor guitar, banjo, and mallet percussion — the accordion is Matt's first musical "love." Long before he could play it, he never missed an episode of *The Lawrence Welk Show*. In 2007, Matt decided to pursue music as his full-time career. He put together his 18-piece **Singapore Slingers Orchestra**, which plays a wide variety of musical styles dedicated to ragtime, traditional jazz, and popular songs of 1895 - 1935. He also leads **The Matt Tolentino Band**, as well as a polka band, **The Royal Klobasneks**. His ensembles perform in various-sized clubs, festivals, special events, and private parties. Music has brought Matt many adventures and friends. It even brought Matt together with Danielle, his wife, who shares a passion for America's great musical past.

TADAO TOMOKIYO



Youth Performer Tadao Tomokiyo from Pittsburgh, PA. discovered the piano when he was 3, and hasn't stopped playing since! He studies classical piano, organ, and French horn, but ragtime holds a special place in his heart. He has studied and performed with **Tom Roberts** since the age of nine. Tadao's musical roots run deep, with family influences from Japan, North Carolina, and Louisiana, where his great-great grandmother learned the local music of Arcadia with her sister, blues singer Teddy Grace.

Tadao's classical training also includes Interlochen, the Tanglewood Young Artists Piano Program, and the InterHarmony Festival, in Italy. He was recently named winner of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra's conducting competition, and led the orchestra in selections from Bizet's *Carmen*.

Tadao has appeared on our own, Spotlighting Ragtime Youth concert, the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Festival's Junior Showcase and the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival. Tadao has it all! Come and see for yourself!

BRUCE VERMAZEN



Soon after earning his bachelors, masters and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy, Bruce Vermazen became a Professor of Philosophy at the University of California Berkeley. In 1978, he became interested in ragtime and began performing cornet with the Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band. He later served as the band's music director and announcer. In the 1980s, Vermazen began publishing articles on historic ragtime musicians in the San Francisco area including: Jay Roberts, Art Hickman, and the Brown Brothers. In the 1990s, Vermazen began playing cornet with the San Francisco Starlight Orchestra. After retiring in 2000, he published *That Moaning Saxophone: The Six Brown Brothers and the Dawning of a Musical Craze*. During the early 2000s, Vermazen also became a member of the Hillcrest Wind Ensemble. In 2005, he and Bob Pinsker founded the recently defunct Heliotrope Ragtime Orchestra. Bruce will be presenting a seminar on the history of the Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band.

GALEN WILKES



Galen Wilkes has worn many ragtime hats as composer, arranger, broadcaster, historian, writer, lecturer, and producer. He began composing rags in the '70s and soon moved to radio hosting "The Ragtime Years" in New York. After moving to California, he was back on the air in the 1980s with "It's Rag Time!" As founder and director of The Palm Leaf Ragtime Orchestra, he produced concerts and revived ragtime dances. In the early '90s he founded the New England Ragtime Festival which he ran in his home state of Connecticut. Galen's massive research has been used to write articles and liner notes for **The Rag-Time Ephemeralist**, Basta Records, Pearl Records, and others. Galen's own popular piano rags, played now for decades include: *The Creeks of Missouri*, *Sedalia Stomp*, *Last of the Ragtime Pioneers*, *Spanish Moss* and others. Available now in his many folios and his CD, *Ragged Rhythm*. Don't miss his entertaining and informative seminar, "So, You Want to be in Vaudeville!" web: galenwilkes.com YouTube: Wilkes Americana Archive.



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Charles H. Templeton, Sr.

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