

Festival Lineup ~ Bill Long

Schedules are being finalized for the 2006 Festival. Sue Keller, John Petley, and I have worked the entire fall and winter to bring you a wide variety of exciting Ragtime Music. We unfortunately had a booking snafu with Regina and Ian Whitcomb, but they have promised for the 2007 Festival. Paul Asaro has been added to the line-up.

If you check the Foundation Web Site, you will see a complete list of those performing on the paid concerts, parties, and dinners. If all goes well, no last minute changes will have to be made. Free venues are in the process of being scheduled, so if you plan on performing during the Festival, I hope you have contacted us already. If not, call now – 660-826-2271 or email ragtimer@scottjoplin.org. I am particularly pleased to announce that there will be many new performers and I look forward to hearing them. We have everything from accordions to banjos. I was unable to book the ragtime juggler however--I'm not sure how that worked anyway. (It reminds me of the years we had the kissing bandit grandmother from Arkansas--I was there for that act and I'm still not sure how it worked--I remember a whole lot of puckering!!!)

This year is heavy on international entertainers and ensembles. Entertainers from Australia, Hungary, Ireland, England, Canada, and --would you believe--Kazakhstan--will be performing for you. We have at least eight bands and orchestras that will grace our stages. Most of your usual American favorites will be in attendance too (the Barnharts of Connecticut, Mr. Holland of Texas, Ms. Keller of Illinois, Mr. Jenks of Maine, Ms Tichenor of California--just to name a few). Bob Milne will only be performing on the Wednesday night concert and a symposium on Saturday morning. Of particular interest to some will be a free concert on Friday at the Katy Depot--that I think we're going to call --" 50 Years in 50 Minutes of Mimi" or "Blais of Glory"--I'm not sure which. She may also have some surprises along the way. This is to celebrate her twelfth 39th birthday. (38 +12=?) I know many of Mimi's fans will not want to miss this one.

The menus for the dinners are an effort to please the most eaters--we started to be real exotic, but we weren't sure we were ready for exotic--so--it's like beef and turkey--and generally stuff with which you are familiar. The caterers are Kehde's BBQ and Little Big Horn Cattle Co., places many of you are familiar with. We have more seating available this year, and I hope we can feed everyone who wants to purchase a ticket. The Donor's Only party will once again feature Heidi's Gourmet catering and Missouri wines. A minimum \$25 donation gets you a ticket to this event on Saturday late afternoon.

The Ragtime Ball will have 3 non-dancing "entertainments" and the first of those will start 30 minutes before the dance at 7:30--this is to satisfy those of you who will not have a Friday night concert this year and who don't like to dance.

If you don't have tickets yet--you better get on it--I hear the opening "Women of Ragtime" concert is really selling fast. Just typing this article has me excited and ready!!!--See ya' soon--Bill Long--who celebrated his 30th 29th birthday this year.

Fashion Contest and Parade – New Night, New Time

The Turn of the Century Fashion Contest and Ragtime Parade are moving to Friday, June 2nd. Contestants for the Fashion Contest should gather at the Maple Leaf Club Site between 4:30 and 5:00 pm with judging to begin at 5:00 pm. The Ragtime Parade will begin immediately

following the judging, approximately 6:30 pm. The Parade will begin at the Maple Leaf and travel up Ohio to end at the John Stark Pavilion. All are invited to enter the parade and fashion contestants are encouraged to participate! It will be at Stark Pavilion that winners will be announced immediately following the parade.

This year there will be 5 categories – yes 5! We will split the children back into boys and girls – under age 14. There will be a male and female category and this year there will be a couples' category. Now – to insure lots of winners, we will not allow the couples' winners to be eligible to win the individual categories and visa versa. So you can win the female category, but you will then be ineligible to win the couple's category with your partner and so on. There will be first and second place prizes for each of the 5 categories. First place for each category will receive \$50 in gold coins, courtesy of Third National Bank, and a downtown Sedalia gift basket, courtesy of Sedalia Downtown Development, Inc. Second place prizes are yet to be finalized. But they will be good!

Entrants will be judged on costume authenticity and clothing that best reflects the early 1900s society dress. In those days, gentleman donned boater or straw hats, vests, bow ties and perhaps a fancy walking cane. Fine ladies were adorned with large ornate hats, blouses with high collars, frilly bell-shaped skirts and parasols. Young boys dressed in knickers with white shirts and ties, and girls often wore dresses with oversized sailor collars.

Start planning your 1900s outfit now and join us for the festivities. You could be the best-dressed person in the Ragtime Parade!

Swap Meet

The Swap Meet will return once again to the Pettis County Courthouse on Saturday, June 3, 2006. The Courthouse Lobby will be open from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm for those wishing to buy, sell, or trade all things ragtime. So look through those closets, boxes, and piano benches for those rare finds and bring them to the Festival.

The Swap Meet is loosely organized by the Scott Joplin Foundation. Tables and chairs will be provided but this is truly run by those wanting to participate. Bring your items in, set up, and let the fun begin. This is a great opportunity to visit with fellow collectors, begin or add to a collection, or perhaps downsize your current collections.

Gazebo Park

We are proud to announce the return of Gazebo Park. Many of you mentioned how much you missed it last year so we thought about giving it another try. The Scott Joplin Foundation will be co-host of the Park with Sedalia Downtown Development, Inc. The format will be completely different. Do not look for scheduled performances, but all are invited to take advantage of the open piano for fun or practice. As the Festival gets closer, more definite plans will be made for this venue.

Ragtime Tea! At the Katy Depot

The Katy Depot will be hosting the first ever Ragtime Tea on Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 11:00 am. (Not really tea time, but we do what we can!) Join the ladies at the Depot for an authentic tea complete with scones, finger sandwiches, and of course, specialty teas. Seating for this first ever event will be limited and all reservations must be made in advance through the Katy Depot – not the Scott Joplin Foundation. For reservations call 660-826-2932 ext. 19 or 1-800-827-5295.

But will this be afternoon tea, high tea, or just tea? And where did the idea for this afternoon meal come from. The following are the definitions and explanations as presented by Wikipedia.com. Anna Russell, Duchess of Bedford of Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire, had the idea of asking her lady's maid to bring all the tea making equipment to her private boudoir at 5 o'clock so that the Duchess could enjoy a cup of tea with a slice or two of bread and butter. During the 18th century, dinner was served at a gradually later and later time until by the early 1800s, the normal time was between 7:00 and 8:30 pm and an extra meal called luncheon had been created to fill the midday gap. But since this new meal was very light, the long afternoon with no refreshment at all left people feeling rather hungry. Anna Maria found this afternoon tea such a perfect refreshment that she soon started inviting her friends to join her in her room for this new social event.

Afternoon Tea (or just tea) is a light meal from Britain taken at around 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It normally consists of the drink itself, served in a teapot with milk and sugar, accompanied by bread-and-butter and some form of cake either small tea cakes, and/or a larger slicing cake such as a Battenburg. A formal afternoon tea would also feature scones and cucumber (or fish paste) sandwiches.

High Tea is a term used mainly in the United Kingdom and Ireland to describe an early evening meal, typically around 5-6 pm, eaten as a substitute for both afternoon tea and the evening meal. The term comes from the meal being eaten at the "high" (main) table, rather than the smaller table common in living rooms. It would usually consist of cold meats, eggs and/or fish, cakes, and sandwiches, all served at the same time. The cakes may either be full sized and cut into slices, or smaller individual cakes, or muffins, toast or other sweet breads.

Tea is the afternoon/evening meal, called that even if the diners are drinking beer, cider, or juice. It traditionally takes place at sometime around 6 pm (though these days, it often takes place as late as 9 pm). In Scotland, Northern England, a significant part of the English Midlands, New Zealand, and sometimes in Australia and Northern Ireland, tea as a meal is synonymous with dinner in Standard English. Under such usage, the midday meal is sometimes termed dinner, rather than lunch. The prominence of this usage in Australia and New Zealand is almost certainly due to the influence of Scottish people for whom dinner is a meal eaten at midday and tea is the evening meal, the proportion of Scottish settlers being much greater in New Zealand than in Australia.

So it seems that this will be a formal afternoon tea, served at 11:00 am! But a delicious tea is not the only thing that will be featured. The Performance Committee has promised to provide some ragtime entertainment by a couple of Festival Performers. At this time, they have not been determined, but you know by looking at this year's lineup, they have to be good. A Ragtime Tea commemorative souvenir will also be provided to those in attendance. The total cost for all of this is only \$15.00 per person. Remember, seating is limited, so get your reservations in early!!