

Festival 2008!!! ~ by Sue Keller

We are again looking forward to an exciting lineup of performers for the 2008 Festival. Included are some that we have not seen for a while, and I hope that you will enjoy their music. Dave Reffkin, Mike Schwimmer, the Royal Guitars from Denmark, Phillip Dyson, Neville Dickie, and Terry Waldo will be back. Kjell Waltman was missed last year, but he is feeling much better now and his hands are once more ready for some hot keyboard action!

The Wednesday afternoon concert features an exciting array of performers who will be taking you on a tour of the USA on Bob Darch's famous "Ragtime Trail." Wednesday evening will showcase Classic Ragtime, with Glenn Jenks, Mimi Blais, and Dave Reffkin, among others. Each of the Wednesday concerts will be held at the State Fair Community College Stauffacher Theater. This is a slightly smaller venue than the Liberty Center, so it is advised that ticket be bought in advance. All other concerts will be held at the Liberty Center.

Thursday afternoon sees the traditional Cradle of Ragtime concert with a few new faces. The Ragtime Rebels, a marimba band from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, will be making their first festival appearance and Faye Ballard, a perennial favorite from the Old Time Piano Playing Contest in Peoria, Illinois, will also be joining the lineup that afternoon.

Featured on the Thursday night concert are Terry Waldo, Neville Dickie, Ivory and Gold (Jeff and Ann Barnhart with drummer Danny Coots), as well as a selection of music from Scott Joplin's three-act opera, Treemonisha. It's been quite a while since we heard those strains here in Sedalia.

The Friday afternoon Legacy concert is a well-rounded list of accomplished performers and festival favorites. The evening fish fry dinner will be located at the Smith Cotton High School cafeteria. The Ragtime Ball follows with a move to the Missouri Electric Cooperative (MEC) Building on the MO State Fair grounds, and music by the Sunflower Ragtime Orchestra under the direction of Steve Smith. It's been a few years since we've seen them, and we're looking forward to their return. When the orchestra takes breaks that time will feature the music of Adam Yarian and Razzmatazz.

Saturday's schedule begins with the fashion contest, parade, and award ceremony in the morning and a concert, Ragtime Revelations, with a few new faces on the main stage: Max Keenlyside, a young player from Prince Edward Island, Canada, Morgan Siever, Wesley Reznicek, Bill Brown, Larisa Migachyov. And maybe a few surprise guests! Also on Saturday, Glenn Jenks will teach the Master Class, beginning at 11:30 AM.

The evening dinner will again be at the Smith Cotton High School cafeteria, followed by the ever-popular Music Hall show at the Liberty Center, where we will valiantly try to recreate Le Chat Noir, the Black Cat Bordello from several years back. This was the last time that we saw John Arpin here in Sedalia. He was lost to the ragtime community last fall, and we would like to dedicate this year's festival to his memory. We'll miss you, John.

'Musically Yours', non-ragtime music will be at the Gazebo again this year and include Kjell Waltman, Phillip Dyson, Neville Dickie, and the Royal Guitars. This has become a very popular event in the past, and it's nice to become acquainted with other musical genres in which our entertainers excel. This idea was the brainstorm of Bill Long, and a good one it is, too.

Hope to see you all in June!!

Sue Keller, Artistic Director

Treemonisha

Scott Joplin's opera, *Treemonisha* was published in 1911. During his life, it was staged or attempted to be staged on several occasions. It was not meet with much success. Over the years, there were a few who had knowledge of the production and score, but by the 1970's, interest in Joplin's works was gaining in popularity and attention was once again given to the opera. The premier performance was in Atlanta in 1972 funded by the Rockefeller Foundation followed by a performance outside of Washington DC later that year. In 1975 the Houston Grand Opera staged another production and this version eventually landed on Broadway where it ran for nine weeks. In 1976, based on *Treemonisha* and the renewed demand for his music, Scott Joplin was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize for "contributions to American music".

Treemonisha takes place in an Arkansas community of former slaves in September 1884. Ned and Monisha find Treemonisha under a sacred tree as an orphan and raise her as their own. Being determined to have the young girl educated, her parents perform chores for a local white family so they will teach her. She grows to be the only educated young woman in the community and at age 18 is ready to lead her community out of ignorance. Local conjurers, men who make their living preying on the superstitions of others, kidnap her due to her interference with the livelihood. Her boyfriend, Remus, rescues her and she returns to her people. When the conjurers are captured, Treemonisha asks the people to forgive them, which is her first lesson as their leader and teacher.

Joplin followed the more conventional form of the classic operas in writing *Treemonisha*; it was not composed as a ragtime opera. The use of ragtime or 'black music' was used to help convey specific points within the story. The central theme of the opera was the importance of education to improving the lives of the African-Americans, a belief that was also central to Joplin's own life.

Treemonisha has been performed at the Scott Joplin Festivals in whole and in part on many occasions. For the 2008 Festival, several selections will be performed at the Thursday evening Easy Winner's Concert. Providing the musical accompaniment will be Ivory and Gold, Sue Keller, Dave Reffkin, and Steve Standiford. Singing the various parts will be Carol Barnes, Richard Dowling, Bill Edwards, Pam Edwards, Glenn Jenks, Sharon Moore, Beve Opelka, John Partridge, and Brett Youens. For more information on the performance, see the Concert Lineup on page 7.

Thanks to Katherine Menefee and Dr. Edward Berlin's book, *The King of Ragtime*, for the historical information and the article.

Fashion Contest, Parade, Dance, and John Stark Pavilion – A few Changes!

The Turn of the Century Fashion Contest and Ragtime Parade appeared to work out very well on Saturday morning, so that is when they will be held for the 2008 Festival. Contestants for the Fashion Contest should gather at the Liberty Center at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 7th with judging to begin at 8:30 am. There seemed to be an overwhelming turnout last year so we are giving the judges and contestants a little more time this year. The Ragtime Parade will begin immediately following the judging, approximately 9:30 am. The Parade will begin at the Liberty Center and travel up Ohio to end at the Maple Leaf Club Site. All are invited to enter the parade

and fashion contestants are encouraged to participate! It will be at Maple Leaf Club Site that winners will be announced immediately following the parade.

This year there will be the traditional 5 categories. We split the children into boys and girls – age 14 and under. There will be a male and female category and 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 additional prizes worth approximately \$50 for a total of \$100. Second place will receive silver coins, courtesy of Sedalia Downtown Development, and additional prizes worth a total of \$50.

Entrants will be judged on costume authenticity and clothing that best reflects the early 1900's 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 1900's outfit now and join us for the festivities. You could be the best-dressed person in the Ragtime Parade!

The Ragtime Ball will have a new location this year as we try out the Missouri Electric Cooperative Building (MEC) on the MO State Fair grounds. This should be an easy place for all to find as it is located directly across the street from the large Grand Stand. We are hoping this building will address all the minor issue we were working around in the past few years.

The John Stark Pavilion will be relocated due to construction at the corner of 5th and Ohio. The location for the 2008 Festival will be at the corner of 2nd and Ohio, next to Wilken's Music and the Cake Walk Hall. We think this will be a good location for the tent this year but we anticipate moving back to the traditional location for the 2009 Festival.

Master Class

The Master Class will be held on Saturday, June 7th beginning at 11:30 am at the Maple Leaf Club Site. Our Master Clinician this year is Glenn Jenks and he will instruct students that are currently working on a piece of ragtime music. As always, priority placement will be given to youth piano players. Adults are more than welcome to sign up though depending on the space available.

If you are interested in joining Glenn in this years Master Class please contact the Ragtime Store – 660-826-2271, 866-218-6258 (toll free), or ragtimer@scottjoplin.org. You can also contact Sue Keller at skeller@rtpress.com.

Musically Yours at Gazebo Park

Music at Gazebo Park is still going strong. This smaller venue is the perfect site to host the non-Ragtime music feature called Musically Yours. It has been such a success; we are going to do it again this year. Each day, Thursday - Saturday, at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm, we feature a ragtime performer in a 30 minute set. This is your chance to hear them play in some of the other styles they excel, ask them questions, and learn more about them.

We have a great line-up for this year that showcase Phillip Dyson, Kjell Waltman, Neville Dickie, Royal Guitars, and Terry Waldo. And you really can ask them anything. They might not answer, but you can ask! Look for specific days and times in the Festival Program.

Ragtime Tea! At the Katy Depot

The Katy Depot will be hosting the third annual Ragtime Tea on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 12:00 pm. Join the ladies at the Depot for an authentic English High Tea complete with scones, finger sandwiches, and of course, specialty teas. They guarantee no one will leave hungry. Seating for this 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.18 or 1-800-827-5295.

A delicious tea is not the only thing that will be featured. The Artistic Director has promised to provide some ragtime entertainment by a couple of Festival Performers. At this time, it seems those entertainers will be Nora and Mark Hulse with Ed Judd, but this could change. The total cost for all of this is only \$17.00 per person. Remember, seating is limited, so get your reservations in early!!

Prior to the Festival the Katy Depot will have a Vintage Bridal display set up in the Elegant Women's waiting room May 19th until June 3rd. There will be 30 separate decades of vintage bridal wear represented, starting at the Victorian Era. Each Era features a bride and usually the groom with some other attendants all decked out in their vintage Bridal wear. This collection is from Carolyn Miller's private collection. Carolyn is the owner of Nostalgia Wear Clothing in Sedalia and will be selling her vintage costume wear at her home before and during the festival. For more info on either of these events they can call the Katy Depot Store at 660-826-2932 ext. 18

Swap Meet

The Swap Meet will return once again to the Pettis County Courthouse on Saturday, June 7, 2008. The Courthouse Lobby will be open from 11:00 noon – 2:00 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.