

Around the Office

Many of you may not realize that the office operates all year round. Not just during the Festival. So what do we do all year? The Ragtime Store and Office are open Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (central time) for the fall and winter. There are times when we close for meetings and there are times we are open for special events or large groups. But typically, every week day. Plans for next year's Festival are well underway: tickets are ordered, venues secured, VIP orders filled, advertising and marketing considerations are all in progress.

Again this year we will be hosting a Benefit Concert series sponsored by Thompson Hills Investments. This spreads a little of the excitement of the Festival throughout the year. The first concert, which happened in September, featured Mimi Blais and was just wonderful. Mimi entertained the crowd for over two hours. The second concert will feature Dr. David Majchrzak. This will be held November 9, 2007. Dave will also be our Artist in Residence, see the related article for more information. The third concert is still in the planning stages. Currently we are talking with Bill Edwards about the possibility of Marty Mincer, Adam Swanson, and himself doing a concert sometime in February. Look for more details, on the Foundation website, as they become available.

We have entered into the world of MySpace! Our page was up and running last February and we are gathering quite a few 'friends' in cyber world. We have been able to connect with many of our regular performers, people from around the world, and ragtime fans of all ages. This also gives a place to advertise our Festival and Benefit Concerts as well as post links to some YouTube videos that were taken in June. Thanks to Howard Vigorita for all his hard work to record, edit, and post these videos. Check us out at www.myspace.com/scottjoplinfoundation.

For anyone interested in playing at the 2008 Ragtime Festival in the open piano times, please contact the Foundation Office at 660-826-2271 or email ragtimer@scottjoplin.org and give us your contact information and dates available. Also contact the office if you are interested in joining Glenn Jenks for the Master Class. Typically, priority consideration is given to young students and they must be working on a piece of ragtime music! The Master Class is currently set for Saturday, June 7th – time TBA.

Ticket prices are going up just a tiny bit. But for good reason! An additional \$2.00/individual ticket and \$10/full ticket package will be set aside for the Foundation Development Fund. This fund has been started to help with purchasing new festival supplies, such as staging materials, as a contingency fund, and as a Ragtime Museum becomes more of a reality, for items needed in the creation of the museum. We are also going to put any monies donated at the venues during the Festival into this same fund.

Tickets and information for next year's Festival are available at the store, online at www.scottjoplin.org or by calling 866-218-6258 (toll free). We look forward to seeing many of you at the Benefit Concerts and the 2008 Ragtime Festival!

We Hear You

The following is a summary of the survey results for the 2007 Festival. We always appreciate those who take the time to fill out surveys and do our best to incorporate all the suggestions that are feasibly possible. This is just a summary of what we received.

Things you liked:

- ♪ As always, everyone had a favorite performer – amateur, young, and professional
- ♪ All the concerts and the Music Hall in particular
- ♪ Being able to talk with the performers
- ♪ Pettis Co. Historical Society fund raiser at the Depot
- ♪ Outdoor venues

Things you'd like to see:

- ♪ Piano 'play offs' with applause judging
- ♪ More student programs
- ♪ Various instruments other than piano
- ♪ Spiritual service or sing-a-longs

Things you think can be changed or improved to some degree:

- ♪ Better venue for the Ragtime Ball
- ♪ Bigger venue for Donor Party
- ♪ More big bands
- ♪ Many requests for specific artists

There are many items that are beyond our control and on each topic we hear both good and bad comments. We are definitely trying to find the best possible solutions for all concerned. Thanks again for taking the time!!

Artist in Residence

Dr. David Majchrzak will be the Foundation's featured performer for the Artist in Residence program the week of November 5-9, 2007. He will be visiting eleven local schools and educating them on ragtime music and the influences on modern music. He will conclude the week with a benefit concert on Friday, November 9, 2007 at 7:00 pm. Contact the Foundation for more information on the benefit concert.

Dr. Dave is a small animal veterinarian by day, but only as a way to support his ragtime habit. Dave is a regular performer at the Scott Joplin House in St. Louis and on the St. Louis Riverfront and he will be making his 6th appearance at the 2008 Scott Joplin Festival. He also performs with the nationally known St. Louis Stompers Classic Jazz Band and does most of the arrangements for them as well. Although Dave has been performing Ragtime for almost 35 years now, he still plays ragtime because it's FUN, and that certainly comes across in his performance.

During his 5 years on the Ragtime scene, Dave has already performed at some of the most popular Festivals in the country, including Scott Joplin Festival in Sedalia, MO, Blind Boone Festival in Columbia, MO, Grand International Festival in Alexandria Bay, New York, and the Chippewa Valley Festival in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and has no plans to stop with those. His

performances include a mix of Ragtime, Stride, and Novelty vocals. He has recorded 3 CD's ("Burning Rags," "Dizzy Fingers," and "Animal Crackers"). Currently, with the help of his recording engineer son, Ben, he has begun work on his fourth. So much music, so little time. Haven't had your Caffeine, yet? Don't worry, Dr. Dave's energetic style and pianistic fireworks will put that 'pep back in your step.'

The Foundation is very excited about his upcoming visit!