

**Thompson Hills Investment Corp is proud to announce
The Scott Joplin Foundation Benefit Concerts featuring:**

Mimi Blais – Oct 29, 2006

and

Anne and Jeff Barnhart – Jan 26, 2007
With special guest Danny Coots

Each concert will be held at the Methodist Church Celebration Center Fellowship Hall located at 1701 W 32nd (corner of 32nd and Hwy 65 for the most part). Tickets are \$20 for each individual concert or \$30 for both concerts per person. Seating is limited and all general admission, no reserved seats. Following each concert, the Common Grounds Coffee Shop will be open and performer CDs will be available for purchase. This will be the perfect time to gather with fellow ragtime enthusiast and talk with the performers and the Scott Joplin Board Members.

Mimi will be in concert in Sedalia as part of a long weekend in Missouri. She will be performing on Sunday, October 29, 2006 at 3:00 pm in Sedalia. On Friday night, you can catch her in Columbia, on Saturday night she will be in Kansas City, and on Monday she will be having a special concert for the kids of Versailles.

For Mimi Blais, Ragtime music became a way to discover her many talents as an entertainer, story-teller, communicator, educator, actress and composer. Classically trained (start piano at age 7 then enter the Conservatory of Music of Quebec City, L. Mus, B. Mus & Concert Diploma at McGill University in Montreal, where she now lives), Mimi is one of the most popular ragtime performer in the circuit. She is also the *comedy star* of the "genre". ... a pianist to be seen!

Nicknamed the New Queen of Ragtime, at her first visit to the Scott Joplin Festival in June 1990, by musicologist and historian Ed. Berlin, Mimi Blais is in high demand because of her charming personality, her deep musicality and her flawless and precise technique at the piano. A concert artist, Mimi is touring a lot in the US playing, explaining and showing to people why ragtime is so important in the history of American Music.

In March 2006, she completed a very successful concert tour in Hungary. Last year Mimi received a grant from the Council of the Arts of Canada to research on Canadian ragtime; a great music folio and CDs will come out of that research in a near future. She presented a seminar on that subject at the "Blind" Boone Ragtime & early Jazz Festival in Columbia, MO right after the Joplin festival in June 2006.

Anne, Jeff and Danny will be the featured Artist in Residence performers in January 2007. After performing 21 mini-concerts at local schools throughout the week, they will wrap things up with a Friday night concert for all audiences beginning at 7:30 pm, January 26, 2007. (See complete bio on page 13 – Artist in Residence article.)

Artist in Residence Program

Anne and Jeff Barnhart will be the Foundation's featured performers for the Artist in Residence program. They will be joined by Danny Coots when they visit Sedalia the week of January 22-26, 2007. The trio will be visiting local schools and educating them on ragtime music and these influences on modern music. They will conclude the week with a benefit concert on Friday, January 26, 2007 at 7:30 pm. Contact the Foundation for more information on the benefit concert.

Originally designed as a duo comprised of flautist Anne Barnhart and pianist/vocalist Jeff Barnhart, *Ivory and Gold* expands to a trio whenever possible to include Grammy-award winning Nashville jazz percussionist Danny Coots. Whether as a duo or trio, *Ivory and Gold* promises a unique and diverse musical experience drawing from 350 years of music.

As a duo, Anne and Jeff Barnhart bring much variety to their performances, due in large part to their rapport and their diverse backgrounds. Both performers hold a master's in music, but Jeff has concentrated on the American forms of music such as ragtime, jazz and Tin Pan Alley, while Anne's expertise lies in classical flute literature. They will be concentrating on ragtime (with a few surprises) at this concert. Audiences experience a sonic treat as flute and piano weave seamlessly through the ages, trading melodic and accompaniment ideas in a unique combination. When drummer Danny Coots is included in the mix, sparks fly and even greater tonal and musical variety is achieved.

Ivory and Gold is currently enjoying a busy performing schedule in concert halls and festivals, ceremonies and private engagements. Most recently, they have played to standing ovations in such diverse places as Sun Valley, Idaho, Evergreen and Denver, CO, Sedalia, MO, Medford and Seaside, OR, Clearwater, FL, Victoria, BC and numerous California events including festivals and parties in Mammoth Lakes, Orange County, Monterey, Pismo Beach, Three Rivers and Eureka. *Ivory and Gold* also performs each year at the prestigious Keswick and Bude Jazz Weeks in England.

In addition, *Ivory and Gold* has been a featured attraction for the Delta Queen Steamboat Company on the Mississippi river, Peter Dehlman Cruises in France (down the Rhone River) and on numerous cruises with the prestigious Radisson and Crystal Cruise Lines. All of their performances "at sea" are sponsored by Jazzdagen Tours (www.jazzdagen.com).

Anne and Jeff have recorded four CDs as *Ivory and Gold*. Their Broadway recording, their Christmas project and their 2 ragtime CDs have met with universal acclaim. Their edition of ragtime pieces arranged for flute and piano has been published by Music Minus One and has been widely distributed world-wide. *Ivory and Gold* has followed this with the eagerly awaited trio album, *Autumn Leaves*, featuring drummer Danny Coots. Finally, *Ivory and Gold*'s newest duo recording is entitled *Reflections of Love*.

Each *Ivory and Gold* concert promises variety, virtuosity, long forgotten tunes, and arrangements of familiar rags and songs that you will hear from no other group anywhere on this planet. For

more information about *Ivory and Gold*'s appearances and recordings, please visit www.jeffbarnhart.com.

The Foundation is very excited about their upcoming visit!