

Ivory & Gold Benefit Concert

The Scott Joplin Foundation will be presenting a Benefit Concert on November 14, 2008 at 7:00 pm. This concert will feature the trio Ivory & Gold. The cost is \$15/person and kids under 12 are free. The concert will be held at the First Christian Church at 200 S. Limit. Contact the Foundation office for more information – 660-826-2271 or email ragtimer@scottjoplin.org.

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. Ivory & 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. 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 & 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 & 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 Dehlmans 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).

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. Ivory & Gold will also be appearing in Tulsa on Thursday, November 13th and in St. Louis on Sunday, November 16th. Jeff and Brian Holland will be performing in Kansas City on Saturday, November 15th.

Brian Holland – Artist in Residence 2009

Brian Holland will be the Foundation's featured performer for the Artist in Residence program the week of March 2-6, 2009. 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, March 5, 2009 at 7:00 pm. Contact the Foundation for more information on the benefit concert.

Having performed ragtime, jazz and stride piano for over 20 years, Brian continues to be one of the most sought after artists in the country. Classically trained, but with a keen ear for improvisation, Brian's approach to the piano is marked by a dynamic, driving style that has been described as clear as Waterford crystal.

Beginning his musical existence at the age of three, Brian grew up living a "Ragtime Life." His grandparents raised him to love all kinds of music, but particularly styles from the early 20th century. He quickly learned his way around an organ keyboard and had a repertoire of old standards that would shock most professionals - all before the age of six. It was then that he turned his attention to the piano. However, during twelve years of intense classical studies, Brian decided that it wasn't a concert stage he wanted to perform on, but the ragtime stage. Since then he has performed all across the US, first on majestic pipe organs in pizza parlors, and then on the uprights and concert grands at ragtime concerts and festivals.

Brian has the distinction of being a World Old-time Piano Playing Champion (1997-1999), winning his third title at only twenty-seven years of age. He is a retired champion, having won the event three times, and is one of the youngest to ever accomplish this feat.

In 2007, Brian earned a Grammy Nomination for his work with Bud Dresser as B-Square (Ragtime – GOODTIME – Jazz CD and other recordings available at www.hollandentertainment.com). Brian also took his love of music globally to the International Stride Summit in Zurich, Switzerland last fall. 2009 looks to be another busy year as he is scheduled to appear in Eau Claire in January, at the Charles Templeton Festival in Mississippi in March, and back in Sedalia at the Scott Joplin Festival in June just to mention a few.

"Brian Holland['s] lightning-fast left hand bangs out a clean, steady rhythm while his right hand skitters up and down the keyboard rendering the melody in thick chords ... watching the energy and dexterity is narcotic." -The New York Sun

“Brian Holland has to be one of the fastest, cleanest players anywhere today. Every note, no matter how swift, is as sparkling clear as Waterford crystal. His touch is assured and he makes even the most complex passages sound easy.”

-Jack Rummel, Prominent reviewer & performer

Changes on the Board

Since the Festival, we have had to say good-bye to two longtime board members: Shirley Evans and Lucille Salerno. Busy schedules make it hard for these ladies to remain as involved as they would like, but we are sure they'll still be around come Festival time! In their place, we have brought in Donal Buckner and Keith Riesberg. They will begin their time on the board at the October meeting.

Donal comes to us by way of the Boys and Girls Club where he is the Site Director. We've been told he is a good musician – his ragtime knowledge and abilities will be tested! Keith is

currently the City Administrator for Sedalia and it is always good to have a friend at the City. Both men are young and hard working – we just hope they know the younger board members have to do more of the heavy lifting!!

The Foundation is looking forward to have Donal and Keith join the board.