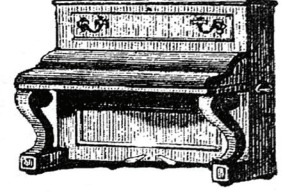


WEST COAST RAGTIMER



THE JOURNAL OF THE WEST COAST RAGTIME SOCIETY

Sacramento, California

Volume XIX, Number 2

Spring 2007

Festival 2007 Performer Line-up

John Arpin
 Paul Asaro
 Mimi Blais
 Tom Bopp (Sunday only)
 Nan Bostick
 Chris & Jack Bradshaw
 Tom Brier
 Neville Dickie
 Marty Eggers
 Frank French
 Ann Gibson
 Alex Hassan
 Frederick Hodges
 Brad Kay
 Janet Klein
 Carl Sonny Leyland
 David Thomas Roberts
 Ray Skjelbred
 Squeek Steele
 Virginia Tichenor
 Craig Ventresco with Meredith Axelrod
 Adam Yarian

Heliotrope Ragtime Orchestra
 Pacific Coast Ragtime Orchestra
 Porcupine Ragtime Ensemble
 Raspberry Jam Band
 Sullivans and Drivons

Andrew Barrett
 Jared DiBartolomeo
 Adam Swanson
 Stephanie Trick

And more to be announced...

DANCERS!!

Brush and polish your ragtime dance shoes because the West Coast Ragtime Society has added another wonderful dance orchestra to the November 16-18 festival line-up! This year we'd like to welcome the **Heliotrope Ragtime Orchestra** for their first appearance at our West Coast Ragtime Festival. The orchestra was founded in early 2005 by cornetist and author Bruce Vermazen and pianist Bob Pinsker,



HELIOTROPE RAGTIME ORCHESTRA

originally to provide accompaniment for ragtime-era events by the San Diego Vintage Dancers. The ensemble, co-led by Pinsker and Vermazen, first played for the Vintage Dancers in April 2005 and has been a success from the start.

The orchestra takes its name from the wonderful 1907 Louis Chauvin-Scott Joplin rag *Heliotrope Bouquet*. The Orchestra reproduces the authentic sound of a dance band from the height of the ragtime era, say, about 1915. It has been featured at the Orange County Ragfest, has played at several events for the San Deigo Vintage Dancers, and has performed at other charity events. The West Coast Ragtime Society is delighted to bring this orchestra to our 21st Festival

THE OPHELIA ORCHESTRA

**Makes it's debut appearance in Sacramento!
Friday, June 8, 2007**



Norway's "Crown Jewel," the magnificent 10-piece Ophelia Orchestra conducted by pianist **Morten Gunnar Larsen**, will make it's first-ever appearance in Sacramento on Friday, June 8, 2007. They are considered by many to be the best ragtime and early jazz orchestra in the world. Their sparkling, fresh and often humorous presentations of America's original "pop" music will hold you spellbound. Delight in the marvelous rhythms of Eubie Blake, Jelly Roll Morton, Scott Joplin, George Gershwin and others for an unforgettable evening. The West Coast Ragtime Society is delighted to bring this wonderful orchestra to Sacramento. This is a concert you should not miss.

Friday, June 8, 2007, 7:30 PM

**Red Lion Hotel: Martinique Ballroom
1401 Arden Way; Sacramento, CA**

Tickets: \$25 per person

**Contact: Bub & Petra Sullivan
1-866-724-9273**

**To purchase by mail: West Coast Ragtime Society
PO Box 13346
Sacramento, CA 95813-3346**

More Great Dancing at Festival 2007

The **Pacific Coast Ragtime Orchestra**, the **Porcupine Ragtime Ensemble**, and the **Sullivans and Drivons** are long-time favorites of our festival goers and they will, of course, be featured in the Martinique Ballroom. And the group that we introduced last year - the **Raspberry Jam Band**—were so well received, they have been invited to return this year to play your favorite dance tunes.

The **Pacific Coast Ragtime Orchestra** always draws a large audience of both dancers and listeners. The group is dedicated to playing and preserving turn-of-the-century ragtime music. Their repertoire reflects the cares and celebrations of a gentler time. Along with *"The Entertainer"* and *"Maple Leaf Rag,"* they play such nostalgic obscurities as *"Au Revoir but Not Goodbye,"* *"Soldier Boy,"*



PACIFIC COAST RAGTIME ORCHESTRA

"Frenchy Come to Yankeeland," "Morning Glory Lane, and *"Vampire Gallop."*

Although the group may be described as a novelty band because it eschews contemporary music, it aims to reproduce faithfully the sounds of the ragtime generation. Many of PCRO's selections are Scott Joplin tunes, arranged by Gunther Schuller. Most of the musical scores are yellow and crumbling with age, but the orchestra feels that these poignant works deserve to be kept alive. We could not agree more!

West Coast Ragtimer

Editor: Bonnie Gonzalez

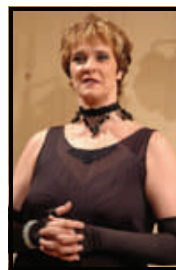
WCRS can be reached at: P.O. Box 13346
Sacramento, CA 95813-3346
www.WestCoastRagtime.com



NEVILLE DICKIE

Neville Dickie last performed at the West Coast Festival in 2005, and we are very happy to announce that he is returning this year. Neville has been described as one of the world's finest exponents of stride piano. He was born in County Durham, England. His early years were spent in the northern working men's clubs. His lucky break came when he was auditioned by the BBC and spotted by Doreen Davies, then head of Radio 2. One reviewer said: "It's one thing for someone to love to listen to 'Fats,' the 'Lion,' the 'Lamb,' 'Jelly' and other classic pianists; but it's another by a mile for someone to play all those individual styles." Well, Neville does play them and you won't want to miss this remarkable performer.

MIMI BLAIS



Mimi is a composer, comedian and, more importantly, a piano virtuoso. You can never be sure which of Mimi's wonderful characters will appear at her sets or which personae she will assume.

But our festival "regulars" long ago discovered that she will be wonderfully entertaining.



Mimi's career has been guided by passion and whim, where classical, folk, jazz, modern, blues, tango, and ragtime all come together. She often blends music in delightful ways.

A classical piece may morph into a rag. WCRS is honored once again to welcome Mimi Blais to the WCRS Ragtime Festival.



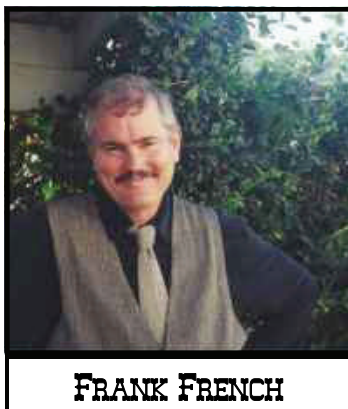


SQUEAK STEELE

Squeek's been playing piano since 1943, so she must be senior citizen by now. She heard her first ragtime on her family's player piano, while growing up in Kentucky.

Squeek resides in Virginia City, Nevada, where she plays at the Bucket of Blood and Gold Hill Saloons, and sometimes at her 1878 house on Main Street, where you can rent her guest house (with an old piano in it, of course!). Welcome back to the West Coast Festival, Squeek.

The compositions of **Frank French** reflect the syncopated connection between Antillean music and piano ragtime. He became acquainted with Cuban and Puerto Rican dance music in the early 1970's, as a pianist with San Francisco's Papo y su Preferida.



FRANK FRENCH

A few years later, in Vienna, he teamed up with Latin Americans living there to form one of the earliest salsa bands in Central Europe. Back in the United States in the early 80's, he composed *Belle of Louisville* and *Bucktown Buck*, and later founded and directed the Rocky Mountain Ragtime Festival and Institute. We are honored to have this accomplished musician perform at the 2007 Festival.

The **Bradshaws** are back! With a sparkle reminiscent of



JACK AND CHRIS BRADSHAW

old-time piano rolls, Jack and Chris Bradshaw produce a crisp, colorful, varied sound, encompassing the magic of the entire keyboard. With twenty flying fingers, playing any of Jack's unique arrangements of ragtime gems, these energetic players add up to one dynamic ragtime team.



CRAIG VENTRESCO & MEREDITH AXELROD

Many of you will recognize the extraordinarily talented guitarist, **Craig Ventresco** from his appearances with the group, Bo Grampus. Craig (guitar and mandolin) has teamed up with Meredith Axelrod (guitar, vocals and piano) to perform popular music written between the late 1890's and the mid 1920's. In addition to pieces by composers like Joplin, who are well known to ragtime fans, they play a variety of lesser known pieces by Tin Pan Alley composers such as Theodore Morse and Ted Snyder, all of which they have learned from their extensive collection of rare cylinder and disc records. We think you will thoroughly enjoy this fresh, fun duo.



Carl Sonny Leyland, New Orleans, 1991

Whether playing piano solo or with his trio, **Carl Sonny Leyland** always performs vintage music with rhythm and soul. His barrelhouse style incorporates the styling of Jimmy Yancey, Cow Cow Davenport, Little Brother Montgomery and other notables into his own playing.

Carl lived in New Orleans for ten years and has been active in various musical genres including blues, western swing, rockabilly and more recently, traditional jazz. And yes, he does play ragtime too. But it is the Boogie and Barrelhouse piano, together with the originality and soulfulness of his own music, that remains the style that he loves most to play.

Youth Program Report

Advanced Youth

Virginia Tichenor is the chair for this part of the WCRS Youth Program. Last year she found six wonderfully talented young pianists to perform at the festival. She has already sent invitations to four young performers for this year's festival and is diligently scouting for more young, talented ragtime pianists.

Youth Ragtime Competition

Chris Bradshaw is the chair for this part of the WCRS Youth Program. What a job she has done over the last two years! Hard to believe it, but she and her committee are now planning the third annual competition!

You will note that the venue has changed. The first two competitions were held at Larrick Piano on Micron Avenue. That store location has closed and the wonderful Steinway pianos have been moved to Larrick's Capital Piano Gallery location.

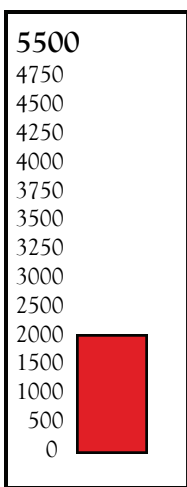
The Youth Program Needs Your Help

No doubt about it—your generous donations make it possible for WCRS to hold the youth ragtime competition and to bring outstanding advanced youth performers to the festival. Our budget this year is \$5,500 and we are on our way to reaching that goal, but we still need some help to reach the goal by November.

Unlike public broadcasters, we do not have umbrellas or tote bags to give away during our pledge drive—just the promise that we will continue to conduct the best Youth Program that we can.

The West Coast Ragtime Society is a 501(c)(3) group and all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please make your check payable to:

West Coast Ragtime Society
P.O. Box 13346
Sacramento, CA 95813-3346



Thank You For Your Generous Support!

THE THIRD ANNUAL
WEST COAST RAGTIME SOCIETY
YOUTH RAGTIME PIANO
COMPETITION
 For Students ages 8 to 18

Saturday, November 3, 2007
10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
 at
Capital Piano Gallery
 2530 Arden Way
 Arden at Fulton
 Sacramento, California

Students will be grouped into performance divisions. Each division will be awarded a first and second place prize. First place winners will be invited to participate in a Master Class with **Frederick Hodges** at the Festival on Saturday, November 17, 2007.

For information call: 1-800-760-9297

Youth Master Class

The first place division winners of the youth competition are invited to participate in a Master Class. This year the class will be led by **Frederick Hodges**. He has hosted the Sunday Youth Concert at the festival for the last few years exhibiting great warmth and humor. He is a virtuoso pianist, a charming emcee, and a piano teacher—a perfect choice to conduct this class.



The Master Class is held on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at 10:00 AM. It is always a fun time for the students and for the audience.

The West Coast Ragtime Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established for the preservation and promotion of ragtime and vintage American music. The Society produces the annual West Coast Ragtime Festival, sponsors ragtime concerts, and supports youth who have an interest in ragtime.

Concert Notices by Email

The West Coast Ragtime Society hosts music concerts and would like to let you know about them. Many musicians notify their fans of their schedules by email and WCRS would like to offer this service to you.

This data will not be shared and will be used only to inform you of WCRS musical events. To easily register, send an email to:

concerts@westcoastragtime.com.

Type "My Email" in the subject line and your name and email address as the message.



Sheet Music From Tom Brier

Tom must have been in a wonderfully whimsical mood when I requested sheet music for this issue of the newsletter because *Carnival Times* (1905) by Theron C. Bennett is just that—whimsical. Even before trying to play the piece, I had confidence in the quality of the music since Bennett had a great track record for composing wonderful music.

And, as always, this piece meets my criteria for the newsletter—an amateur (that would be me) can play it. The "A" section has a nice catchy melody line and the bass line is very straight forward. This section almost invites improvisation—even by amateurs! The "B" strain reminded me of a calliope which seems appropriate for the title of the piece. The Trio has an interesting 4 measure lead-in with funky minor and diminished chords, but then breaks into straight up "A Flat." The piece finishes "Grandioso."

Once again we thank Tom Brier for his generosity in sharing music from his collection. And the same instruction that is always given to those of you who play the piece is: Have Fun With It!!

Bonanza Sheet Music Sales At Festival

Tom and Virginia Hawthorne, our sheet music vendors, contacted me to announce that they have a "treasure trove" of vintage sheet music. Apparently, it's a very large collection that they are sorting and organizing. It's large enough that they have requested more space at the festival Ragtime Store to accommodate the collection. I have seen samples of the sheet music and they have acquired some real vintage gems. All of you sheet music collectors should have a field day at the festival this year!

WHEMAN'S Complete DANCING MASTER 1899

ADVICE IN REGARD TO THE SELECTION OF MUSIC FOR BALLS, PRIVATE PARTIES, ETC.

For Dancing—If but one instrument is to be used, the violin is unquestionably the best: next to that the pianoforte should be chosen.

If two pieces are engaged, the violin and piano will be preferable. The harp and violin next, or a violin and violoncello.

For three pieces—A violin, piano and cornet (flute or clarinet), or a violin, harp and cornet.

When selecting the instruments for a small band, choose the violin first, then add as many more as may be deemed requisite, selecting them as follows:

For four pieces—A first and second violin, a violoncello, and first cornet.

For five pieces - Add a flute to the above instruments.

For six pieces—First and second violins, a double bass, flute, clarinet and first cornet.

For seven pieces—Add a second cornet.

For eight pieces—A first and second violin, a tenor, double bass, flute, clarinet, first and second cornets.

For nine pieces—Add a violoncello.

For ten pieces—Select as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. First violin | 6. Flute |
| 2. Second violin | 7. Clarinet |
| 3. Tenor violin | 8. First cornet |
| 4. Violoncello | 9. Second cornet |
| 5. Double bass | 10. Trombone |



For a larger band, some of the parts will have to be double, and others added to them, according to the number engaged, and this should be done by direction of the band master.

The above directions are not intended to interfere with the advice of a competent musician, but are suggested because their observance has heretofore given general satisfaction at balls and private soirées.

Editor's Note: This article appeals to all of us who play a stringed instrument. So when you organize your next ball, you know which instrument to select first!

FESTIVAL FEATURES

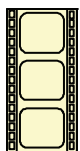
WORLD-CLASS MUSICIANS

It is the fabulous core of talented musicians playing ragtime and vintage music that makes the West Coast Ragtime Festival the outstanding event that it is. As you can see from the lineup on page 1, that wonderful tradition continues. And the list is not complete—we will be adding more great musicians.

SIX GREAT SEMINARS

Seminars are always a festival favorite! Nan Bostick will find six seminar presenters with topics that should fascinate our festival goers. Look for a summary in the next issue of the newsletter.

SILENT MOVIES



Silent movies will return this year. They were an outstanding success at the 2006 Festival, so we will do it again—hopefully with a venue large enough to accommodate the audience!

YOUTH PERFORMERS

Talented young pianists from around the country will be invited to perform at the festival again this year. There will also be an opportunity to see the winners of the youth competition at the Master Class.

FULL DANCE SCHEDULE

In response to our dancers' comments, the Martinique Ballroom was opened with live music for longer hours last year. We plan to continue that extended schedule this year.

OPEN PIANO

Last year we had a very full schedule of musicians. As delightful as that was to many of our festival goers, it meant that we had to cut down on the amount of time we had for open piano. And that was a big disappointment to many who come to play. We will try to leave more time for open piano this year.

VENUES IN ONE HOTEL

The festival will be held at the Red Lion Hotel. The room rates are : \$79 for 1 or 2 persons, \$89 for 3 or 4 persons (if reserved before October 24, 2007). Request that your room be reserved as part of the "West Coast Ragtime Festival" block.

**Hotel Reservations phone number:
1-800-REDLION**

BADGE ORDER FORM

The 21st Annual West Coast Ragtime Festival

Noon Friday, Nov. 16 to 5:00 P.M. Sunday, Nov. 18, 2007
At the Red Lion Hotel, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA

<u>Type of Badge</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Cost per Badge</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
All-Event Badge	_____	**@ \$85.00**	_____
(pre 11/1/07)			
All-Event Badge	_____	@ \$90.00	_____
Friday Only	_____	@ \$35.00	_____
Saturday Only	_____	@ \$45.00	_____
Sunday Only	_____	@ \$25.00	_____
Sat/Sun Pkg	_____	@\$60.00	_____
Total Enclosed			\$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Make checks payable to WCRS and mail to:

**West Coast Ragtime Society
PO Box 13346
Sacramento, CA 95813-3346**

To order tickets, call Toll Free:
1-866-RAG-WCRS (724-9277)

Confirmation of receipt will be mailed promptly. Pick up your badges at the Registration Table at the Festival. Refunds requested for Festival Badge cancellations must be received in writing no later than November 1, 2007. A \$10.00 Handling Charge will apply. Refunds requested after 11/1/07 will be issued as vouchers valid for the following year's West Coast Ragtime Festival.

For queries & information, call Toll Free:
1-866-RAG-WCRF (724-9273)

Festivalinfo@WestCoastRagtime.com

www.WestCoastRagtime.com

WEST COAST RAGTIME Society

PO Box 13346
Sacramento CA 95813-3346



NONPROFIT
ORG
U.S. Postage
Paid
Sacramento CA
Permit #2473

Stamp required
if not bulk mailed

Your WCRS Membership Will Be Appreciated

The West Coast Ragtime Society is a member-supported organization. Dues must be received by December 31, 2007. Please make your check payable to:

West Coast Ragtime Society + P.O. Box 13346 + Sacramento, CA + 95813-3346

Please Indicate Type Of Membership: Individual (\$15) Couple (\$25)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone(s): _____ (home) _____ (office)

E-mail Address: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Subscribing to the Sacramento Ragtime Society's newsletter does NOT make you a member of the West Coast Ragtime Society. It is true that WCRS is greatly supported by Sacramento Ragtime Society members, and it gets confusing. The SRS is unincorporated and exists solely for the purpose of having monthly sessions to promote ragtime in Sacramento. The West Coast Ragtime Society is a separate, member-supported 501 (c) (3) organization whose activities include the annual Ragtime Festival, Ragtime Concerts and an active Youth Program.