

# FESTIVAL 2007 - by Bill Long

The Artistic Director's are in negotiations with numerous performers to appear at the 2007 Scott Joplin Festival. Since we are sending this newsletter a little earlier than usual, we only have confirmations from a few entertainers. Among those we are trying to get are many of your favorites and a new face or two.

Bill and Sue are currently trying to contract the "usuals" - Brian Holland, Jeff Barnhart, Mimi Blais, John Petley, Dave Tucker, Dave Majchrzak, Jim Radloff, Steve Standiford, and Marty Mincer. We are hoping to have Eytan Uslan and Brian Wright who were new faces last year - and big hits with the audiences. Corie Melaugh, Adam Swanson, Brian Hawkins, Andrew Eicholtz, and others of the "youthful" group will hopefully be with us. Kjel Waldman will be returning this year.

Brett Youens will be back - as "good-as-new" - and we have told him to stay off the bicycle - at least until the next festival. Hopefully we will see the Tichenor Family on one of the concerts. We are also contacting Don Ryan and his son, Baron, who really plays well. Alex and Tim Sandor, along with aunt Sandy Williams, as well as brother and sister, Susan Cordell and Steve Spracklin are on our list to contact. We just might have a real "family" affair on one of the paid venues.

The Symposium group of hopefuls (who also are wonderful performers) include Nan Bostick, Bill Edwards, and new face-Richard Dowling. We will have 8 symposium sessions on Thursday and Friday Mornings from 9:00-1:00. A special activity is being planned for Wednesday afternoon for the time between the SFCC schedule and the evening concert.

On Saturday morning, we will have the "Strut" (parade), Fashion Contest, and an expanded Master Class. If you are interested in the Master Class—please contact the Foundation Office, we will accept adults and children. The only requisite is that you play ragtime. Space is limited, so contact us soon.

We are changing some of the ways we schedule. Those who want to play on one of the venues will have more opportunities for "open" piano spots. Please let us know by March 1, 2007 if you plan to play at the Festival and when you will be available. When you contact us, I (Bill) will let you know what you will be scheduled or not-scheduled to do so as to give you time to buy tickets for those concerts you want to see. The evening concerts will all be in Liberty Center this year, and because it is a smaller venue, tickets for some concerts may be at a real premium. Based on past years' attendance, the Saturday night Music Hall concert will sell out!

We hope to have Rod Biensen back at the Cake Walk Hall this year, he and Tricia did a wonderful job instructing dance last year. Please check the schedule in the newsletter and ticket order form - there are some very minor changes made due to your requests and responses on the questionnaire many of you answered at the 2006 Festival.

We congratulate David Reffkin for receiving the "Scott Joplin Ragtime Achievement Award" at the 2006 Festival and are currently thinking about who will be next year's recipient.

Sue Keller and I look forward to seeing you at the 2007 Festival and hope to have a cadre of performers that you will fully enjoy.