

SCOTT JOPLIN
International Ragtime Foundation
SEDALIA MISSOURI

January 29, 2026

The Scott Joplin Foundation is pleased to launch its call for applications to the Ragtime Kid program for the 2026 Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival. The Ragtime Kid Program has been made possible in part by the Larry Karp Memorial Fund, and the estate of Larry Karp, biographer of Brun Campbell, the original “Ragtime Kid.”

The Ragtime Kid Program is designed to promote a deeper understanding of the ragtime music style, its history, repertoire, composers, and performers. Of course, this is a lot to cover, but the program is flexible to the areas of the applicant’s interest, while also seeking to expand the breadth of their ragtime knowledge.

Once a Ragtime Kid has been chosen, they will meet with the Ragtime Kid Program Director to design a course of study that will culminate in a project, presentation, or performance at the 2026 Scott Joplin Festival. For example, a pianist interested in learning or refining their performances of Scott Joplin rags will take lessons and work with top performers of the ragtime style. Similarly, a person interested in researching some aspect of ragtime will work with noted historians of the style to produce a document or project. Additionally, an honorarium of \$1000 will be awarded to the Ragtime Kid, to be conferred at the festival.

Applications are open for projects and/or performances taking place at the 2026 Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival. The participant(s) will commit to being in residence for the festival, **May 27–30, 2026**. Applications will be accepted beginning January 30, 2026. Supplementing materials may be added to the application through the application deadline. **The deadline to apply is February 22, 2026, 11:59pm CST.**

We look forward to your applications!

Warmest Regards,



William McNally,
Ragtime Kid Program Director

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- P O Box 1244 • 600 East Third Street • Sedalia, MO 65301 •
 - SJFSedalia@gmail.com • www.scottjoplin.com •