



Sacramento, California

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Summer, 2009

Here Comes the 23rd West Coast Ragtime Festival!

**November 20 - 22, 2009 at the Red Lion Hotel,
Sacramento, California**

From the land of the Vikings, from “down under,” and from the “scepter’d isle,” come illustrious performers this November 20 to 22 to join those from nearer regions in lighting up the stage of the Twenty-third West Coast Ragtime Festival, at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento, California.

Morten Gunnar Larsen returns to the festival from Oslo, Norway, with his stellar repertoire of classic rag favorites, some stomping and striding, “Jelly Roll” Morton, Gottschalk Americana treasures, and plenty of beautiful contemporary rags. Morten will also present a seminar.

From Australia, the land “down under,” world class performer **John Gill** makes his premiere appearance at the forthcoming festival. Described as one of the world’s best stride, early jazz and ragtime players, Gill has a repertoire that includes the compositions of Scott Joplin, Eubie Blake, Willie “The Lion” Smith, Joseph Lamb, James P. Johnson, “Fats” Waller and others.

Back by popular demand, **Neville Dickie** from England brings his lively stride, boogie-woogie, and blues to festival. With both Neville Dickie and John Gill on the festival roster, stride piano will be well represented this year.

The scholarly **Trebor Tichenor** returns this year from St. Louis, Missouri, for solo and family performances, plus a seminar.

Richard Dowling, a New York pianist equally at home with ragtime and classical music, and with many awards to his credit, joins us for the first time at this year’s festival. **Terry Parrish** will bring us folk rags and rags from Indiana. Other standout festival performers include **Meredith**



Morten
Gunnar
Larsen
of
Oslo,
Norway



John
Gill
of
Perth,
Australia



Neville
Dickie
of
London,
England

Volunteer Information

Volunteers are needed prior to, during, and after the festival. Volunteers who serve a minimum of 12 hours during the festival (or immediately before or after it) will receive an All-Events Pass to the festival. Those who cannot serve 12 hours may serve a four-hour shift on any day of the festival and receive free admission for that day.

Helen Robinson is Volunteer Coordinator. To volunteer, email h.robinson3@comcast.net or write WCRS - Attention: Volunteer Coordinator, P.O. Box 13346, Sacramento, CA 95813. Include your name, address, telephone number and email address. You will be contacted about the type of volunteer service you prefer and to work out your schedule.

WEST COAST RAGTIMER

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www.WestCoastRagtime.com

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Linda Kuk
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Festival Director
Virginia Tichenor

West Coast Ragtime Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Ragtime and vintage American music.

Behind the Scenes

So many good folks work tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the Festival to us year after year. It is our desire to honor and thank a few volunteers in each newsletter. Did you know that it is **Bev Eggers** who makes the weekly trek to the WCRS post office box to retrieve our mail, which includes your kind notes, festival ticket orders, youth competition entries, and even some large bills that find their way to us? You may have admired the beautiful festival flyers; they are designed by our genius artisan, **Lewis Motisher** and are the initial announcement of each year's festival.

Ever wonder who keeps the festival registration desk open? It is **Kurt and Alicia Fulbright**, along with their helpers, who not only meet and greet you, but have also been trained to take your money. Then there is **Hal Krueger** who, wearing many hats, sees that all collected monies are deposited, and keeps our finances straight. Think taxes and other government forms and you have the huge job that falls to Hal, with help from **Virginia Tichenor**. Hal has, in the past, also been a key driver, along with **Allan Wilson**, transporting performers to and from the airport and occasionally the train station.

Kitty Wilson organizes and maintains the hospitality room for the performers, seeing that delicious snacks are provided and that there are always volunteers on hand to keep the treats in order. And if you are reading this newsletter, you have **Joanne Erskine** to thank. She edits the WCRS newsletter from afar—her home in Juneau, Alaska. In the next newsletter we'll mention some others doing jobs that keep us going. Many thanks to all our helpers.

Membership

West Coast now has a brand new, updated database, thanks to the hard work of Jack Bradshaw. Take a look at the address portion of this newsletter to be sure your name and address are spelled correctly. Changes can be made by notifying Jack at ragtime@bradshaw88.com. One of the new features is that if you see a "2009" after your name, that means you are a member of the West Coast Ragtime Society for this year. Memberships are based on the calendar year.

Now, don't feel left out if you don't see this year's date after your name. This can easily be resolved by sending in \$15 for a single membership or \$25 for a couple to the West Coast Ragtime Society, P.O. Box 13346, Sacramento, CA 95813. Members never miss out on any of the WCRS mailings, can vote in the yearly election for the board slate, are welcome at all board meetings, see their names printed in the festival program, and enjoy that good feeling of knowing they are supporting an organization that puts ragtime music on the map.

WCRS will Miss Mimi!

As you may have noticed, we are saying "hello" to some outstanding new performers at the festival this year, as well as welcoming back some old favorites. One name that is missing from the lineup, however, is Mimi Blais, who has been a headliner at the WCRS Festival for many years. As she announced in February on what she called her farewell California concert tour, Mimi plans to take time out to take advantage of some new opportunities and projects coming her way. West Coast wishes her all the best.

Here Comes the 23rd West Coast Ragtime Festival (continued)

Axelrod, Andrew Barrett, Tom Brier, Marty Eggers, Frederick Hodges, Carl Sonny Leyland, Ray Skjelbred, Hal Smith, Squeek Steele, Virginia Tichenor, Stephanie Trick, Craig Ventresco and many others. Check out the entire lineup, printed on page 6 of this issue.

Dancers will have the music of the Pacific Coast Ragtime Orchestra, the Porcupine Ragtime Ensemble and the Raspberry Jam Band to set their feet to rhythm. Dance instruction will be in the hands of Bruce Mitchell and Richard Duree. Live music for dance instruction will be played by Stanley Stern and Nancy Piver.



Trebor Tichenor of St. Louis, Missouri

From the Sacramento area, West Coast Ragtime Society is pleased to feature Nan Bostick, Chris and Jack Bradshaw, Robyn and Steve Drivon, and Bub and Petra Sullivan in various configurations at the 2009 festival.

Featured youth performers will include Vincent Johnson of Sierra Madre, CA, Max Keenlyside of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, Will Perkins of Riverbank, CA, Sergey Smirnov of Palo Alto, CA, and Adam Swanson of Shenandoah, Iowa.

Festival organizers are planning special evening shows, silent movies, seminars entertaining and educational, plus youth programs that feature tomorrow's ragtime stars. It all adds up to a "not-to-miss" festival!

For more information call toll free: 1-866-724-9273 or look on-line at: www.WestCoastRagtime.com.

Make your hotel reservations!

The festival will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento. Festival housing is at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento and the nearby Doubletree Hotel Sacramento. It is advisable to make your reservations early. Please contact the hotels directly to reserve your room.

Red Lion Hotel Sacramento
1401 Arden Way
\$99 for 1-2 persons, \$109 for 3-4 persons
1-800-733-5466 (RED-LION)

Please note that the cut-off date for the West Coast Ragtime rate for the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento is **November 1, 2009**.

Doubletree Hotel Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
\$99 for 1-4 persons
1-800-222-8733 (TREE)

Please note that the cut-off date for the West Coast Ragtime rate at the Doubletree Hotel Sacramento is **October 21, 2009**.

The Red Lion Hotel will provide free shuttle service between the Red Lion and Doubletree during the festival.

Purchase Your Festival Badge Early for Discount

All events badges are \$85 if ordered before November 1. They will be \$90 at the door. Day badges will also be available.

Badges may be ordered using the form on the back page of this newsletter, or by downloading the form on-line at www.WestCoastRagtime.com. You can also pre-pay your badge by phone using a credit card.

If paying by check or money order, the badge order form with check or money order made out to "West Coast Ragtime Society" can be mailed to:

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

You will be sent an acknowledgement postcard upon receipt of your check and badge order form from West Coast Ragtime Society.

To pre-pay for your badge by credit card, call **1-866-RAG-WCRS (724-9277)** to reach board member Bob Gonzalez, who can process your credit card order.

Young Ragtimers Compete, Play at Youth Concert

West Coast is gearing up for the Fifth Annual Youth Ragtime Piano Competition, to be held Saturday, November 7, at Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Avenue in Sacramento. This inspiring event begins at 10:00 a.m. and continues throughout the day, featuring young performers ages 8-18, spread across four division levels. It is open to the public.

As in the past, Division 1 is for ages 8-10. Division 2A (Junior) is for beginning students ages 11-14 who are performing rags written or arranged for beginning students. The next division, also for students ages 11-14, is the 2B (Classic) Division for students with more experience who will play a classic rag as written. Division 3 is for students ages 15-18.

Each division is treated as a separate competition. The students perform; the judges make their decisions; awards are presented; and then the next division begins. **Virginia Tichenor** performs for the students between sessions. Attendance at the event reaches as high as 120 people at times during the day. Listeners are all welcome to come and go as they please. The first place winners can be heard Saturday, November 21, during the Festival Master Class with **Frederick Hodges**.

Youth competition flyers, featuring graphic design work by **Lewis Motisher**, who also designs graphics for the yearly Sampler CD that is presented to each competition participant, were sent out the end of May. Last year a record 59 students played in the competition, coming from 34 piano teachers. Expectations are for topping that in November 2009. Competition flyers are available at all WCRS events, major festivals and on the WCRS website. You may also call (800) 760-9297 for additional information.

Youth Ragtime Concerts

One of the goals of the WCRS is to foster and encourage young pianists to play and enjoy ragtime by providing them with forums in which to perform and be heard. In support of this goal, besides the competition and the Master Class, two youth concerts are scheduled during

the year. The first one took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Ragtime Corner on Saturday, May 23, where eight students between the ages of 8 and 14 from last year's competition performed. As the competition moves on through the years, some outstanding youth players have emerged, whose committed study of ragtime music sets them in the forefront. **Will Perkins, Vince Johnson** and **Tim Rotolo** performed their own individual sets at the Ragtime Corners. A second youth concert is being planned for the Sutter Creek festival in August. Will, Vince and Tim will play their own sets this year at that festival as well.



These youth players performed recently at the Ragtime Corner of the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee. Back: Sergey Smirnov, Shayon Konjkav, Sasha Sharma, Heather Yee, Anna Jiang. Front: James Shawcross, Sandhya Jetty.

WCRF Youth Performers

Adam Swanson, Max Keenlyside, Vincent Johnson and Will Perkins will return to perform on the Sunday morning Youth Program as well as their own solo sets at the festival. New this year is a striking new talent, **Sergey Smirnov**, who will appear at the youth concert and perform his first solo set at the festival. Sergey, who is from Palo Alto, was the Division 2B first place winner at last November's competition. Bios and pictures of these talented young players will appear in the next newsletter. Now, if you have noticed a certain Miss missing from this group, it's because she has moved up into the ranks of the professional performers. The good news is that you can expect to hear **Stephanie Trick** gracing the stages many times during festival.