



Sacramento, California

Volume XXI, Number 2

Autumn, 2009

West Coast Ragtime Festival takes over the Sacramento Red Lion Hotel

The 23rd annual West Coast Ragtime Festival takes place November 20-22, 2009 at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento, California. When the festival weekend rolls around, expect to hear ragtime's infectious rhythms throughout the hotel with new performers, returning performers, and youth performers playing ragtime in a potpourri of styles to satisfy all ragtime fans!

This year's festival has quite an international flair. **Morten Gunnar Larsen** returns from Oslo, Norway; stride pianist **Neville Dickie** returns from London, England; and festival organizers are delighted to present **John Gill**, of Perth, Australia in his first appearance at the West Coast Ragtime Festival. Expect to hear some exciting stride piano from all these fantastic pianists!

New to Sacramento this year, **Richard Dowling**, of New York, NY is making his first festival appearance. Richard is a pianist equally at home with both ragtime and classical music. Expect to catch Richard giving a seminar on George Gershwin, and performing a solo rendition of "Rhapsody in Blue". Richard will also team with festival favorites **Stephanie Trick**, of St. Louis, MO and **Frederick Hodges**, of Berkeley, CA for some sprightly two-piano antics.

Returning after a hiatus is **Ray Skjelbred** of Seattle, WA. Ray will present a seminar on a rare, miniature piano called the dolceola. Expect to hear Ray's unique interpretations of rags, blues, and stomps throughout the festival weekend. He'll also appear with the **Carl Sonny Leyland Trio** in a special set called "Trio Plus One"!

Midwest and folk ragtime is well represented with both **Trebor Tichenor**, of St. Louis, MO and **Terry Parrish** of Indianapolis, IN appearing this year. Tichenor will be featured on solo sets, and he'll also join his family in the **Tichenor Family Trio**. Tichenor will also present an interesting seminar on Les Copland, an eccentric ragtimer. Parrish is known for his unique interpretations of folk rags, so expect to hear some exciting, rollicking folk rags from both Parrish and Tichenor at this year's festival.

Northern California is very fortunate to have many local talented ragtime performers who will be featured at this year's festival. **Nan Bostick** of Menlo

(continued page 2)

Red Lion Hotel Sold Out

The Red Lion Hotel Sacramento is already full for the West Coast Ragtime Festival weekend November 20-22! Plenty of rooms are available at the nearby Doubletree Hotel. Call 1-800-222-8733 (TREE) and ask for the West Coast Ragtime Festival room rate of \$99 for 1-4 persons. The cutoff date for the festival rate is **October 21, 2009**, so don't delay.

Red Lion is providing a free shuttle service between the Red Lion and Doubletree, to run continuously throughout the festival weekend.

The Red Lion has completed its renovations of the lobby, and the front desk has been moved! It is now to the right in the lobby, where the gift shop was, as you enter the hotel. The gift shop is now across from J.B.'s Lounge.

Buy Your Badges!

Reminder that you can pre-order your festival badge and save \$5 if you order by Nov. 1, 2009. All-events badges cost \$85 if postmarked before Nov. 1, 2009, but the price goes up to \$90 after Nov. 1st. See the back page for a badge registration form to pay ahead by check. Or phone 1-866-RAG-WCRS (724-9277) to reach Bob Gonzalez for advance badge purchase by credit card. You can also buy your badge ahead through PayPal.

West Coast Ragtime Festival

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Park, **Tom Brier** of Sacramento, **Chris & Jack Bradshaw** of Gilroy, the **Crown Syncopators** of Berkeley, **Marty Eggers** of Oakland, **Frederick Hodges** of Berkeley, the **Pacific Coast Ragtime Orchestra** of Pacifica, the **Porcupine Ragtime Ensemble** of Sacramento, the **Raspberry Jam Band** of Auburn, **Sullivans/Drivons** of Sacramento, **Virginia Tichenor** of Oakland, and **Craig Ventresco & Meredith Axelrod** of San Francisco, will all perform.

See page 6 for the complete list of performers.

WEST COAST RAGTIMER

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West Coast Ragtime Society
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www.WestCoastRagtime.com

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Virginia Tichenor

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

Welcome Message from President Bub Sullivan

Fall is here in Sacramento and West Coast Ragtime Society's Board of Directors and numerous volunteers are busy organizing and preparing for the 23rd annual West Coast Ragtime Festival! We're very excited about this year's festival lineup and hope that you will join us at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento for more giddy, elegant, joyous, sometimes rambunctious, and just lovely fun. Your smile muscles will get a workout!

For those of you who may not know me (or may have just decided to deny it!) you've probably seen me around prior festivals with the Porcupine Ragtime Ensemble and in the Sullivans/Drivons with my lovely wife Petra and the talented Drivons (Robyn & Steve). Petra and I also may have spoken to many of you on the phone (I may have disguised my voice, like Julia Child, this year) as we answer the West Coast Ragtime Festival's general information phone line. Helping the West Coast Ragtime Society is very rewarding -- we have a great core of volunteers who are on the ball and know how to work very hard to make the festival a success every year. Like any of you would be, I am proud to be of any help to this group.

I look forward to possibly meeting many more of you in person at this year's festival! In any case, get yourself ready for some big time fun! How fortunate we are!

Sincerely,

Bub Sullivan
President
West Coast Ragtime Society



Dancing Returns to Martinique Ballroom

In the last issue of West Coast Ragtime Society's newsletter, it was reported that dancing would move to the Sierra Room at this year's festival. After numerous meetings with Red Lion and discussion with many of our long-time festival dancers, West Coast Ragtime festival organizers decided to move dancing back into the Martinique Ballroom. Dancing will take place in two venues this year -- in the Martinique Room and in J.B.'s Lounge.

The Martinique Room will be an "all purpose room" for the upcoming festival. It will have both theater-style seating and dancing taking place at the same time during the festival. Martinique will still be used for special shows, soloists, and groups, as it is the hotel's largest venue. Festival organizers determined that a large rectangular dance floor will fit in the far left corner of the Martinique Room so that dancing can take place there during the festival. There will still be theater-style seating in the front and on the sides of the stage. However, the

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Dancing Returns to Martinique (continued)

stage will be larger this year, to accommodate groups performing in the Martinique Room.

Dance instruction will take place again in the J.B.'s Lounge venue, as the attendance for dance instruction warrants a smaller space and festival organizers like the central location of J.B.'s Lounge. Dancing will be permitted in the Martinique Room during the festival and at all festival events that take place in the room.

Although festival organizers had originally thought that the Sierra Room would be large enough for dancing, West Coast determined that a larger dance floor will fit in the Martinique Room and not compromise the theater-style seating too much, so dancing will return to the Martinique Room this year!



Exciting Dance Events Planned

With the return of dancing into the Martinique Room, festival organizers are planning that the annual "Grand March" event on Saturday evening will begin in the Martinique Room, after the Saturday evening "Stride Summit" show concludes. Led again by the Fresno High School Marching Band, dancers will march from the Martinique Room, through the hotel and return to Martinique. The Saturday evening dance will feature the Pacific Coast Ragtime Orchestra in the Martinique Room.

The festival will also feature its annual "cakewalk demonstration," and a special set of tangos is being planned by Stanley Stern & Nancy Piver. Pianist Squeek Steele of Virginia City, NV will also be appearing at this year's festival and she looks forward to playing for the dancers.

Other exciting groups that will be programmed in the Martinique Room especially for dancers include the Crown Syncopators, the Porcupine Ragtime Ensemble, and the Raspberry Jam Band. The solo pianists who appear in Martinique will do their best to accommodate the dancers, but festival organizers are also planning that there will always be dance-friendly performers playing in J.B.'s Lounge, too, throughout the festival weekend. Dancers should have plenty of opportunities to pursue their terpsichorial passion.



Scintillating Seminars

This year's festival features six unique seminars, organized by **Nan Bostick**, on Saturday and Sunday. This little space lets us look at three of them.

Generations in Ragtime: Style and Interpretation over the Decades

By Max Keenlyside

Each generation of ragtime and stride pianists bore a different set of stylistic, interpretational, and compositional characteristics. Max defines, discusses, and demonstrates these characteristics through old recordings and live performance examples, from original composers right up to present-day pianists.

Memories of Eubie Blake

By Morten Gunnar Larsen

In 1977 when ragtime, stride, and pop-to-light classics composer/pianist Eubie Blake visited Norway, Morten spent important times with him. He recollects this visit with photographs, private recordings, and letters from Eubie, plus excerpts from a Norwegian Radio interview Eubie made. Morten demonstrates Eubie's remarkable piano style, and presents some manuscripts, including *Randi's Rag*, composed for the journalist who convinced Eubie to take his very first plane flight.

Les Copeland - A Ragtime Odyssey

By Trebor Tichenor

Les Copeland was an eccentric ragtimer born in Kansas, who played the western Gold Rush towns, beat out Brun Campbell for a job with Lew Dockstader's Minstrels, played in New York City vaudeville, made piano rolls, and invaded Paris in the 1920s, where he is recalled in a bartender's memoir.

5th Annual WCRS Youth Ragtime Piano Competition

It's hard to believe, but it will be the Fifth Annual youth piano ragtime competition, November 7th, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Avenue, in Sacramento, hosted by the West Coast Ragtime Society. Time has just flown by since our fledgling beginnings. Each new mail pick-up brings in new applicants and we are gearing up for high numbers again this year.

The competition has grown over the years and we are already seeing the results as several of our youth performers— Will Perkins, Vincent Johnson, Tim Rotolo and, newest name in the bunch, Sergey Smirnov—are making names for themselves in the world of next-generation ragtime performers.

The competition is open to the public, free to attend, and all are welcome to come and go during the day. The day belongs to the children, and to see their excitement, enthusiasm and joy of playing is heartwarming. There are four divisions of players and each division is a separate competition.

It's a three ring circus if there ever was one. The kids warm up before each division right on the competition piano. After a division is over, the judges retire to make their choices, while the kids get snacks. Virginia Tichenor performs a few numbers, winners are announced and the next group begins.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

Div. 1	10:00 a.m.	ages 8-10
Div. 2B	10:30 a.m.	ages 11 - 14 (Classic) performing a vintage rag
Div. 2A	1:00 p.m.	ages 11-14 (Junior) Beginning students performing arranged or teaching rags
Div. 3	2:00 p.m.	ages 15-18

The competition isn't so much about winning as it is about the joy of sharing ragtime music and making new friends.

First place winners will perform in a Master Class led by Master Teacher Frederick Hodges at the West Coast Ragtime Festival on Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m., at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento.

To get a glimpse of the future of ragtime, come and enjoy the WCRS Youth Piano Ragtime Competition.

Yamaha Piano Sponsorship

West Coast is honored and pleased to announce that this year's festival pianos are being sponsored entirely by Yamaha. Sacramento's exclusive Yamaha piano dealer, Music Exchange, is providing the pianos, including seven grands and three uprights. One of the featured pianos will be the Yamaha Disklavier, an amazing piano that can record as you play and can even play files of downloaded piano rolls! The Disklavier has many other features to delight piano buffs. The Disklavier will be featured at the festival along with the other wonderful pianos that Yamaha is providing.

Lessons with F. Hodges

Bowing to popular demand, Frederick Hodges has graciously agreed to give piano lessons the day before the festival begins, on Thursday, November 19, at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento.

Improve your ragtime and general piano playing skills with a lesson from this famed ragtime pianist and music teacher. Learn how to improve, embellish, and improvise within the ragtime and novelty piano idiom from an encouraging, patient, perceptive, insightful, and fun-loving teacher. The private ragtime piano lesson will focus on the individual student and his/her needs and goals, and help to nurture the growth of natural musical talent. The lesson will focus intensely on all aspects of piano mastery: technique, musicality, talent, discipline, and passion.



Auditors are also welcome to attend a scheduled lesson, with the permission of the primary student. Auditors will benefit from listening to the instruction and advice given to the student but will be free of any pressure to perform or participate. Students of all ages and proficiency levels welcome.

Price: \$50.00 per hour
Auditors admission fee: \$20.00 per hour, with permission of student taking lesson.

Space is limited, so call soon.
To book your lesson, E-mail or telephone Frederick at:
frederick.hodges@yahoo.com
510-495-4558

Fab Volunteers Grease Festival Keys

Now that the plans for the November Festival are in place, our volunteers are in full swing. Continuing in our goal of honoring and thanking a few individual volunteers in each newsletter, we'd like to call your attention to these outstanding people.

If you find yourself checking the West Coast website for current updates, you can thank **Warren Jennings**, our hard working webmaster. Or, if you picked up a festival flyer at another event, it is **Linda Kuk** who has spent the last three months mailing out festival flyers to musical organizations nationwide.

Bob Orr wears several hats as he finds pianos for the festival, checks on various details with the hotel and sees that we have sound for the weekend. And by the way, a sound crew of twelve volunteers from the **Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society** keeps all the sound systems up and running throughout the festival.

When you arrive at the festival registration desk, note that those snazzy festival badges are designed by **Lewis Motisher** and produced by **Bob Gonzalez**, who is probably going to be there to greet you as well. You'll notice the attractive programs, cover design and layout the work of again, our talented Lewis. We need to mention **Dave Bilgray** who spends untold hours editing the performer bios. Also in the program you are also going to find a whole list of wonderful seminars, all coordinated by **Nan Bostick**.

And when you are seated in the Martini, you'll see **Merv Graham** emceeding many of the events that take place there. When not on stage, he can be found behind it, chasing down performers and making sure staging is set for whatever follows next.

Coordinating these festival volunteers is **Helen Robinson**. To be a part of this elite group, contact Helen as shown below to see if there is a spot you'd like to fill. West Coast thanks all who work so diligently to make this a wonderful festival for everyone.

Volunteers Needed

If you're interested in volunteering to help at the festival, please contact Helen Robinson at 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.

Special Events Planned for Festival

West Coast Ragtime Society's festival planners are busy organizing exciting special events and shows for the upcoming West Coast Ragtime Festival Nov. 20-22. On festival opening day, Friday, November 20, the first special show of the afternoon will feature a set of the published ragtime of John Stark. Stark was a prominent ragtime publisher, best known for publishing Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" in 1899. This special set will feature much of the great "classic ragtime" from Stark's catalog, along with a sampling of obscure ragtime rarities he published. **Trebor Tichenor** of St. Louis will provide historical commentary about Stark's history in ragtime.



Tichenor

Many festival performers will appear in the numerous special shows throughout the festival weekend. The festival program booklet and website will have the most up-to-date information on exactly who will be appearing in each show.

Friday evening will feature the traditional "festival sampler" show where new or returning performers each play a tune or two in their own unique styles. This year's "festival sampler" will also feature a preview of some coming events at the festival. Look forward to hearing **Taslimah Bey**, of Detroit, **Richard Dowling**, of New York, **Terry Parrish** of Indianapolis, **Ray Skjelbred**, of Seattle, **Squeek Steele** of Virginia City, just to name a few! Festival headliner **Frederick Hodges** will again present his delightful piano accompaniment to silent movies. This year, festival organizers are moving the silent movies to Friday evening.

Last year's "Ragtime - 1908" special set was so well received that festival organizers will again hark back 100 years to 1909 and present a special Saturday afternoon show of rags all published in 1909!

Festival headliners **John Gill** of Australia, **Neville Dickie** of London, **Morten Gunnar Larsen** of Norway and **Stephanie Trick** of St. Louis will all be prominently featured in a "Stride Summit" show Saturday evening.



Gill



Dickie



Larsen



Trick

Festival Performers

Groups

Crown Syncopators
Fresno High School Band
Pacific Coast Ragtime Orch
Porcupines
Ragnolia Ragtette
Ragtime Skedaddlers
Raspberry Jam Band
Sullivans/Drivons

Solo Performers

Meredith Axelrod
Andrew Barrett
Taslimah Bey
Tom Bopp
Nan Bostick
Chris & Jack Bradshaw
Tom Brier
Shirley Case
Neville Dickie
Richard Dowling
Marty Eggers
Frank French
Ann Gibson
John Gill
Rosemary Hallum
Frederick Hodges
Morten Gunnar Larsen
Carl Sonny Leyland
Larisa Migachyov
Terry Parrish
Nancy Piver
David Thomas Roberts
Jack Rummel
John Schafer
Sean Sharp
Ray Skjelbred
Hal Smith
Squeek Steele
Stanley Stern
Trebtor Tichenor
Virginia Tichenor
Stephanie Trick
Craig Ventresco
Sam Williams

Seminars

Richard Dowling
Max Keenlyside
Morten Larsen
Ray Skjelbred
Trebtor Tichenor
Galen Wilkes

Dance Instructors

Bruce Mitchell
Richard Duree

Youth Performers

Vincent Johnson
Max Keenlyside
Will Perkins
Tim Rotolo
Sergey Smirnov
Adam Swanson
Luke Vandermyde



Johnson



Keenlyside



Perkins



Rotolo



Smirnov



Vandermyde

Special Events (continued)

A special show called the “**Ziegfield Follies Revue**” led by **Ann Gibson** and Frederick Hodges will take place late Saturday evening. This is an all-star revue featuring the most delightful, musical, and frequently naughty songs originally introduced in the Ziegfield Follies from 1907 to 1921. Vocalists Ann Gibson, **Sean Sharp**, and **Helen Burns** will all be featured in this show, along with the most beautiful chorus girls in the world!

Sunday morning will again feature the traditional Youth Concert where you can hear the future of ragtime — our seven youth performers — all in one special event. This year’s youth performers include: **Vincent Johnson**, **Max Keenlyside**, **Will Perkins**, **Tim Rotolo**, **Sergey Smirnov**, **Adam Swanson**, and **Luke Vandermyde**.

West Coast Ragtime Society is very pleased to present a very special set of rare song slides on Sunday afternoon. Come hear ragtime singer **Sean Sharp** and ragtime pianist Frederick Hodges present, for the first time at the West Coast Ragtime Festival, a special revue of famous ragtime songs exactly as they would have been presented in an authentic Nickelodeon theater using beautiful, hand-colored, and incredibly rare original song slides.

Galen Wilkes of Van Nuys, CA will present a seminar describing the history of the illustrated song. He will also bring a collection of ragtime era artifacts to display during festival weekend. Check the program booklet for the display location.



Wilkes

Sunday afternoon’s final special concert of the weekend will be the festival finale done in a variety-style format. This will be your last chance to hear most of the festival performers. Red Lion will again provide a buffet dinner in the Coffee Garden restaurant for the post-festival party after the festival finale concert ends. Red Lion advises that you purchase tickets in advance of the Sunday buffet to be assured a seat. Tickets will be available at Red Lion starting Friday morning.

There are many more surprises in the works, so check the West Coast Ragtime Society’s website at www.westcoastragtime.com for more details on the special events, theme sets, seminars, and shows at the upcoming festival. The festival schedule will be posted on the website as soon as it is available.

West Coast Ragtime Festival Information

FESTIVAL DATES: Friday, Saturday & Sunday
November 20, 21, and 22, 2009

LOCATION:

Red Lion Hotel Sacramento
1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: 916-922-8041 FAX 916-922-9391

FESTIVAL HOURS: Friday: 12 Noon to 11 PM; Saturday 9 AM to 11 PM; Sunday 9 AM to 5 PM. After-hours sessions begin at the close of the regular schedule on Friday and Saturday nights.

BADGES: All Events: \$85.00 (purchased by Nov. 1). All Events: \$90.00 (purchased at the door or after Nov. 1), Friday only: \$35.00, Saturday only: \$45.00, Sunday only: \$25.00. Sat/Sun. combination \$60. Children 16 years and under are admitted free when accompanied by a person having a paid admission badge. Adults bringing a child get in for half price (day badges only); one discount per child. Half day rates (after 5 p.m.) will be available at the door. Only one discount will be applied.

BADGE SALES: 1-866-RAG-WCRS (724-9277) (Bob Gonzalez) Advance purchases by credit card: Contact Bob Gonzalez at the number above or (415) 924-6834, or email at: bobsrags@comcast.net.
Advance purchases by check or money order: use order forms on back page or website. Mail check and form to the address shown on the form.

TRAVEL AGENT:

Miyamoto Travel Service is the official travel agency. Contact them at (916) 441-1020 Monday thru Friday from 8AM to 12 noon and 1-5 PM (PDT). Ask for Raymonde, or email raymonde@miyamototravel.com

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Doubletree Hotel Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
Reservations phone number: **1-800-222-8733 (TREE)**
Group room rates: **\$99.00** for 1, 2, 3, or 4 persons (if reserved before **October 21, 2009** and if requested to be part of the "West Coast Ragtime Festival" block)
Cutoff date for Ragtime Festival rate October 21.

Red Lion Hotel Sacramento (SOLD OUT)
1401 Arden Way
1-800-733-5466 (RED-LION)

SHUTTLE BUS service will run continuously during the festival between the Doubletree and the Red Lion.

WCRF Flyers: Linda Kuk, Coordinator
Please contact Linda at (916) 922-0260 or at lkuk@sbcglobal.net to obtain flyers.

Disability Issues: Linda Kuk, Coordinator

FOOD SERVICE:

Coffee Garden Café 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Bar Service from 3:00 PM to 2:00 AM
A buffet will be located next to the restaurant. Open for breakfast 7-10, lunch 11-3, and dinner 5-9.
A "Ragtime Café" will be located near the festival venues and will feature ready made hot and cold items for cash sale.
There is a variety of restaurants nearby, including several in the shopping mall adjacent to the hotel.

RV PARKING:

On Site: Day Parking only. East end of hotel parking lot. Register with Hotel. Fee \$25 for festival.

RV Park (full hookups only)

Cal Expo RV Park
1600 Exposition Boulevard
(916) 263-3187

Jazz LP Collection for Sale at Festival

One of West Coast Ragtime Society's members has donated his large and varied collection of jazz LPs to be sold at the festival. All proceeds from the sale will benefit West Coast Ragtime Society. You do not need to register for the festival to purchase records. Simply drop by the ragtime store at the festival and browse the records. Vintage sheet music and jazz CDs are also for sale. Be sure to bring a large empty box to take home your treasures - you will find a lot of them! Exact location and store hours at Red Lion will be in the festival program booklet.

WEST COAST RAGTIME SOCIETY

P.O. Box 13346
Sacramento, CA 95813-3346

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BADGE ORDER FORM

West Coast Ragtime Festival -- 11/20-22/09

Name(s) _____

Item	Qty.	Price	Total
All-Event Badge *(\$90.00 \$85.00 if postmarked by 11/1/2009)	_____	*_____	_____
Friday Only	_____	\$35.00	_____
Saturday Only	_____	\$45.00	_____
Sunday Only	_____	\$25.00	_____
Sat/Sun Pkg	_____	\$60.00	_____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s) _____

E-mail Address _____

WCRS Membership		2009	2010
Individual	\$15.00	_____	\$15.00 _____
Couple	\$25.00	_____	\$25.00 _____

Make checks payable to WCRS and mail to
West Coast Ragtime Society
P.O. Box 13346
Sacramento CA 95813-3346

Tax-Deductible Contribution - Festival	\$ _____
Tax-Deductible Contribution - Youth Pgms	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

A receipt will be mailed promptly. Pick up tickets/badges at the event. Requests for refunds for badge cancellations must be received in writing no later than Nov. 1, and a \$10 handling charge will apply. Refunds requested after 11/1/09 will be issued as vouchers for the following year's West Coast Ragtime Festival.