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Medina County Schools'
Fine Arts Tours

Press Release

Bob Milne to Bring Ragtime to Medina High School Middle Stage on April 22

Medina: Ragtimist Bob Milne will appear in concert on April 22, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the **Medina High School Middle Stage** (777 East Union Street, Medina, Ohio). Tickets at \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens are available pre-sale by calling 330-636-3400. Tickets will also be available at the door on the evening of the concert.

The concert is being presented by the Medina County Schools' Fine Arts Tours and the Medina High School Performing Arts Center. According to Marcus Neiman, Director of Fine Arts Tours for Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center, "We are delighted to have the opportunity to form a partnership with the Medina High School Performing Arts Center and to bring Bob Milne back to Medina County. His knowledge of ragtime music and highly entertaining performances have been crowd pleasers for many years."

Bob Milne is known as the top ragtime/boogie-woogie pianist around today, and he is one of the finest musicians of all time.

As a student in the late 1960s at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, Mr. Milne began his musical career not as a pianist, but as a French horn virtuoso. He performed in such symphonies as the Rochester Philharmonic and the Baltimore Symphony. When the performances were over, the symphony musicians would relax and "ham it up" in the local saloon. Because he didn't carry his horn around with him, Bob soon found himself at the piano, quickly learning how to accompany the singers and entertain the crowd. It was so much fun, that he kept at it, and soon discovered that not only did people love what he was doing, they were paying him for it!

Bob moved to Detroit, where he pursued piano playing full time in just about every kind of bar, saloon, and barrelhouse imaginable. At that time, he spent his off hours listening to the other talented piano players in the area, picking up an invaluable education by observing and comparing, and learning new tunes on the spot.

For Immediate Release

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On the job, while leading sing-along crowds, he developed a highly energetic playing style that would penetrate the noise in the room, convey a steady rhythm, and capture the attention of the bar room patrons. His style, he later discovered, was based on a type of off-the-beat, "ragged" time very similar to the styles of America's early ragtime era of the late 1800's and early 1900's.

As he continued performing night after night, he expanded his repertoire, adding early ragtime pieces, Scott Joplin rags, and John William "Blind" Boone pieces. As he continued to listen and study, he delved into the boogie-woogie, Dixieland, and stride piano styles. His excitement about these styles of music, as well as the classical music styles of Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, and many other composers, spurred him on to acquire every bit of knowledge about them he could find.

Today Bob enjoys a successful career as a concert pianist, entertaining audiences in concert halls, opera houses, and arena stages from coast to coast. He enthusiastically shares his knowledge about piano playing and music in general with his listeners, as well as the incredible histories of others like him--musicians and composers of all eras who learned by listening and doing.

As a recording artist, Bob Milne has produced ten collections of solo piano rags, blues, boogies, and folk/traditional tunes, which are available on cassette and CD.

Mr. Milne is the author of *The Journeyman Piano Player*, a collection of humorous anecdotes taken from his early years as a working musician. The book has become highly regarded by working professionals and amateurs alike, and has been suggested as required reading for anyone entertaining the notion of pursuing a career in music.

Mr. Milne has written three other books to date, including *Turtle Lake: Portrait of an Extortionist*, a fictional suspense tale; a second fictional crime story; and a historical true-crime re-creation. Please browse Bob's Web site (www.bobmilne.com) to order any of these materials.

Vicki Calvin, manager of the Medina High School Performing Arts Center, commented, "We are delighted to have Bob Milne performing in our Middle Stage Auditorium and look forward to partnering with Medina County Schools' Fine Arts Tours."

For more information on the concert, contact either Brenda Zacharias, Medina County Schools' ESC (330.723.6393, Ext. 101) or, for information on tickets, the Performing Arts Center Box Office (330.636.3400).

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