



## RIVER RAISIN RAGTIME REVUE

Celebrating America's Musical Heritage

### R4 receives \$17,500 from MCACA and the NEA

The River Raisin Ragtime Revue is pleased to announce it has received grants from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts to help fund programs for the fiscal year 2018. These grants require matching funds. Please consider a contribution towards supporting R4's mission of educating and entertaining audiences of all ages through performance and preservation of America's original style of popular music. Last season, R4 brought quality programming to over 27,000 people. Help us keep the music and history alive!



### R4's Newest Recording is Now Available!

The River Raisin Ragtime Revue has partnered with MacArthur Genius Reginald R. Robinson to produce a collection of important new American music. R4 Music Director Emeritus, William Hayes, arranged fifteen of Robinson's original compositions for R4, resulting in the first major collection of African American ragtime orchestrations since the ragtime era.

Hayes worked closely with Robinson for the orchestrations included on this recording. His arranging skills highlight the virtuosic individuals that comprise the River Raisin Ragtime Revue, and at the same time pay homage to the influences that comprise Robinson's music. Compositions with "classic" ragtime influences often highlight the violin, with strong rhythmic presence of the banjo in a supporting role. This voicing represents the ragtime roots of the plantation fiddle and banjo of slave performers. By adding banjo to the orchestrations, Hayes

## 7th Annual Ragtime Extravaganza set for Friday, January 12th

Magic, music, dancing, comedy and excitement! This year's Ragtime Extravaganza is loaded with talent – get your tickets today at [www.ragtimeband.org/calendar/](http://www.ragtimeband.org/calendar/).

This year's lineup includes:

- NYC carnival sideshow extraordinaire Todd Robbins
- Chicago stride ragtime pianist Paul Asaro
- tap dancer Bianca Revels
- Blues and ragtime guitarist and vocalist Rollie Tussing
- Bass-baritone Daniel Washington
- Ragtime and jazz pianist and bandleader James Dapogny
- The Working Class Tuba Quartet
- and of course, the River Raisin Ragtime Revue orchestra!
- Program appropriate for all ages!

**Seating is limited**, as the event is now at Washtenaw Community College's Towsley Auditorium. This is an intimate, exciting, energetic show! We can't wait to see you there!

frees the second violin and viola from being assigned primarily rhythmic figures and allows them to partake in melodic and harmonic roles used in developed chamber music. In Robinson's Latin-influenced works, the lush cornet harmonies are reminiscent of a mariachi band. Hayes' goal was to use the full array of sonic offerings available from the orchestra to bring Robinson's music to life. Dr. Edward Berlin, the preeminent scholar and biographer of Scott Joplin writes "...the orchestrations, and their realization by the orchestra, are breathtaking." **You can order your own CD at [www.ragtimeband.org/r4-store/](http://www.ragtimeband.org/r4-store/).**

## Ragtime Extravaganza moved to WCC's Towsley Auditorium

RIVER RAISIN RAGTIME REVUE'S 7TH ANNUAL

# RAGTIME EXTRAVAGANZA

Featuring the River Raisin Ragtime Revue 13-piece orchestra  
**WILLIAM PEMBERTON, DIRECTOR**

**HOSTED BY TODD ROBBINS**  
 World's preeminent carnival sideshow personality, magician & pianist

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

**PAUL ASARO**  
 Chicago-based stride pianist featured with Leon Redbone & Loudon Wainwright III

**JAMES DAPOGNY**  
 Grammy-nominated pianist, scholar & bandleader

**ROLLIE TUSSING**  
 Award-winning ragtime and blues guitarist

**DANIEL WASHINGTON**  
 Bass-baritone opera soloist appearing with the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra & Berlin Philharmonic

**BIANCA REVELS**  
 Tap dancer from TV's "So You Think You Can Dance" & "Showtime at the Apollo"

**WORKING CLASS TUBA QUARTET**  
 A brass bass foursome like you've never experienced!

**FRIDAY JAN 12, 2018 8:00PM**

**NEW LOCATION**  
**LIMITED SEATING**

TOWSLEY AUDITORIUM | WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE | ANN ARBOR  
 TICKETS & INFORMATION AT [WWW.RAGTIMEBAND.ORG](http://WWW.RAGTIMEBAND.ORG)

## R4 Performs at UM's Diversity Summit

R4 was honored to perform at Rackham Auditorium on Wednesday, Nov. 8, as part of the University of Michigan's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit. UM President Mark Schlissel and Chief Diversity Officer Robert Sellers addressed the UM community regarding the institution's strategic plan and progress for diversity. R4 performed a musical interlude and featured guest soloist bass-baritone Daniel Washington.

## Collaborative CMU Concert a Success!

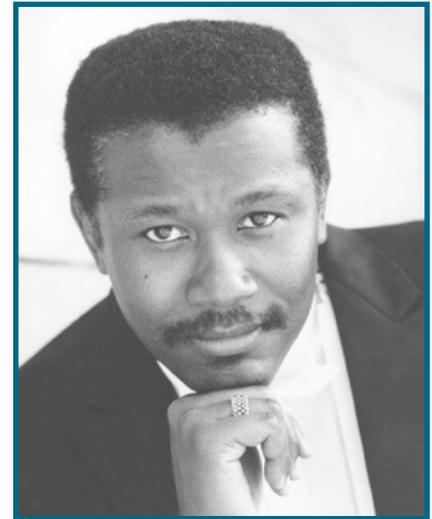
R4 visited Mount Pleasant, MI and Central Michigan University in October for a fun collaboration with CMU faculty, students and community. CMU brass faculty members Dr. Robert Lindahl (trombone) and Dr. Neil Mueller (cornet/trumpet) were featured on the program. The audience was comprised of CMU students and the Mount Pleasant community. CMU video recorded the concert for later presentation to broader audiences.



## R4 Records CD of Spirituals and African American Popular Songs with Daniel Washington

R4 collaborated with bass-baritone Daniel Washington, the University of Michigan, and the Sphinx Organization to record a CD featuring spirituals and African American popular songs from the early years of the twentieth century.

The recorded music includes spiritual arrangements by H. T. Burleigh, as well as songs written by Bert Williams, Bob Cole, James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamund Johnson, and James P. Johnson. The orchestrations were completed by R4 Music Director Emeritus William Hayes. R4 partnered with Sphinx musicians and the project was made possible with a grant from the University of Michigan. The CD will be available early in 2018 and preorders are being taken.



## Ragtime and Rumble Seats: R4 at Greenfield Village's Old Car Festival

"Take Me Out for a Joy Ride" and "He'd have to Get Under - Get Out and Get Under (To Fix His Automobile)" were just a couple of the many car-themed ragtime era tunes R4 performed at the Old Car Festival, held the weekend of September 9-10 at historic Greenfield Village. Great weather resulted in large and enthusiastic crowds. R4 also performed WWI



patriotic rags and marches in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into the first World War. "Over There!," "Oh Johnny, Oh Johnny, Oh!" and "When Alexander Took His Ragtime Band to France" were all popular with the audiences.

## **Bring Some Ragtime to Your Community!**

R4 would love to perform at your local venue!

To bring some great American music to your community, contact:

GREAT LAKES PERFORMING  
ARTIST ASSOCIATES  
415 N. 4th Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734.665.4029

## **Remember to Like Us on Facebook!**

Facebook is the best way to keep us with our performances and ensemble happenings!

## **R4 YouTube channel has 2000 subscribers!**

Want to see exciting videos of R4 in action? Subscribe to our YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYgz6KQD14cq3m4qN2CzaVQ>

## **Veterans Day Concert at Manistee's Historic Ramsdell Theatre**

In honor of our veterans, the River Raisin Ragtime Revue visited the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts in Manistee, MI on Veterans Day (Nov. 11). The Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts is home to the beautifully renovated Ramsdell Theatre. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, The Ramsdell has served the Michigan coastal community of Manistee for over a 100 years. Built in 1903 by local lawyer and philanthropist Thomas Jefferson Ramsdell, the Theatre and Grand Ballroom were designed by renown Chicago architect Solon Spencer Beman. The Theatre was comparable to the best opera and vaudeville houses at the time of its construction and though extensively renovated over the years, retains much of its original architecture and charm.

R4 performed a tribute of patriotic ragtime songs and marches and performed a special "Armed Forces Salute," which recognized all veterans with their respective military anthems. The Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts coordinated the performance with a visual commemoration of area WWI veterans in their adjacent art gallery.

## **We Need Your Support!**

Do you like American music and history as much as we do? We need your support to reach audiences and achieve our mission of education and entertainment. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to

R4. Any amount is welcome! Checks can be sent to: River Raisin Ragtime Revue, 411 E. Logan St., Tecumseh, MI 49286. You can donate online at <http://www.ragtimeband.org/donate/>.

