

10-27-2002

Guest Artist Recital: Tony Caramia, piano

Tony Caramia

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*“It is
my plan
to build
a school
of music
second
to none.”*

—William
Grant Egbert
(1867–1928)
Founder,
Ithaca
Conservatory
of Music

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA

VISITING ARTISTS SERIES 2002-3

"Improvisation and You"

Tony Caramia, piano

Happy 100th Birthday
Billy Mayerl (1902-1959)

As you enter, you will be listening to music of Billy Mayerl (from the CD British Light Music) as performed by the Bratislava Slovak Radio Orchestra, Gary Carpenter, Conductor; Andrew Ball, piano

Song of the Desert (*from Egyptian Suite, 1919*)

The Jazz Master (*from Six Pianolettes, 1925*)
Billy Mayerl (recorded 9/24/25)

If You Knew Susie (transcription, 1926)
Alex Hassan

Loose Elbows (*from Four Piano Exaggerations, No. 1, 1926*)

Antiquary (*from Four Piano Exaggerations No. 2, 1926*)
Billy Mayerl (recorded 3/6/26)

Marigold, Op. 78 (1927)

Chopsticks (1927)
Billy Mayerl (recorded 10/7/27)

Punch (*from Puppet's Suite, 1927*)

Legends of King Arthur (1929)

No. 2 Merlin the Wizard

No. 4 Lady of the Lake

Nimble Fingered Gentleman (1934)

Balloons (1934)

INTERMISSION

Shallow Waters (1936)

Railroad Rhythm (1938)

Billy Mayerl (recorded 5/19/39)

Phil the Flutter's Ball (transcription, 1938)

Susan Tomes

Insect Oddities (1940)

Wedding of an Ant

Praying Mantis

Beetle in the Bottle

Clowning (The Big Top, 1948)

April's Fool (1945)

Hockett Family Recital Hall

Sunday, October 27, 2002

4:00 p.m.

Acknowledgments:

Alex Hassan (historian; collector; performer) provided a knowledge of this music and its history that is invaluable, and a love for it that is contagious; **John Ebert's** (audio engineer) smile and expertise always helped the music sound the best; **Kevin McPeak** (Director of Technology and Music Production, ESM) continually offered guidance and advice, tempered with much needed patience; **Mike Lorenzini** (Executive Producer for Shellwood Recordings, {www.shellwood.co.uk}; Chairman of the Billy Mayerl Society, London, England) supplied suggestions and material for rare insights into the life and music of Billy Mayerl; **Pam Harvey's** (Educational Technology Consultant, University of Rochester) "power" as a fine teacher helped "point" me toward a smooth "slide" into 21st century technology. Billy and I thank you, one and all!

Tony Caramia is Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music, where he is Director of Piano Pedagogy Studies and Coordinator of the Class Piano Program. Having studied piano with Claudette Sorel and composition with Walter S. Hartley, Mr. Caramia earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in piano performance from the State University of New York at Fredonia. From 1975 to 1990 he taught at the University of Illinois. He has been active as a classical pianist, presenting numerous solo and ensemble programs. As a jazz pianist he has performed with Urbie Green, Clark Terry, Dick Johnson, Terry Gibbs and with noted jazz pianists Bill Dobbins and Marian McPartland. As a ragtime pianist he has been a featured soloist at the West Coast Ragtime Fest in Fresno, CA; the Lake Superior Ragtime Bash in Superior, WI; the International Ragtime/Jasstime Festival in Alexandria Bay, NY; the Classic Ragtime Festival in Indianapolis, IN; the 1st Annual Michigan Ragtime Retreat in Lapeer, MI; and the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival in Sedalia, MO, where he was also the 2002 and 1996 Artist-in-Residence. He was a 1999 Visiting Artist for the Quad Cities Arts Council.

Mr. Caramia was featured in the July 2000 issue of *The American Rag* magazine. He regularly reviews for *American Music Teacher* magazine; contributes to *The Piano Pedagogy Forum* (web site); and has contributed to the Question and Answer Column for *Clavier* magazine. He is a Keyboard Clinician and Consultant for the Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation and has conducted workshops in jazz piano for teachers at MTNA National and State Conventions; the First International Workshop of New Music for Children in Berlin; the National Piano Teachers Institute, and the International Workshops in Australia, Belgium, Hawaii, Italy, Austria, France, Scotland and Norway. He has lectured and performed at the European Piano Teachers Association International Conference in London, the first Australian Piano Pedagogy Conference in Adelaide, and the Institute of Registered Music Teachers National Conference in New Zealand. He is a co-author of the MTNA/IAJE Jazz Studies Guide.

As a composer he has been commissioned by the Hattiesburg (MS) Piano Teachers League Composers Festival and the Oklahoma Music Teachers State Convention. He served as National Program Coordinator for the Columbia Pictures Publications/Belwin Student Composition Contest for MTNA from 1991 to 1995.

Mr. Caramia has four recordings: *Zebra Stripes*, highlighting syncopated solo piano music of European and women composers; *Nimble Fingered Gentleman*, featuring music of Billy Mayerl; *Brass Knuckles*, a recital of contemporary ragtime; and a solo jazz piano release called *Tony Caramia, Live!*

Books about Billy Mayerl:

Dickinson, Peter: *Marigold—The Music of Billy Mayerl*
(London: Oxford Univer Press, 1999)

Harth, Mike, ed. : *Lightning Fingers—The Man and His Music*
(London: Paradise Press, 1995)

Published Solo Piano Music of Billy Mayerl:

Billy Mayerl: *Jazz Master*. Peter Foss, ed. EMI Music, 1987

Recommended recordings:

Alex Hassan, *Rediscoveries*, Shellwood SWCD1

Billy mayerl, *Favourites*, Grosvenor Nostalgia CDGRS 1265

Bratislava Slovak Radio Orchestra, *British Light Music*,
Parco Polo 8223513

Eric Parkin, *Scallywag*; Priory Records UK, # 565

The *Piano Impressions of Billy Mayerl*, Chandos

Richard Rodney Bennett, *British Light Music of the 20s and 30s*,
EMI Classics

Susan Tomes, *Loose Elbows*, Virgin Classics VC7 90745-2

Tony Caramia, *Nible Fingered Gentleman*, Stomp Off 1313