

Eighth Bob Becker Ragtime Institute – 2008

What to Expect

There will be group lessons and lecture/listening sessions every day. In addition, each student will be assigned to a quintet, which will prepare repertoire for the Saturday night concert (student solo pieces and pieces to be performed by Mr. Becker). These ensembles will also rehearse every day. Everyone will receive an individual lesson at some time during the week. There will be sufficient practice rooms, rehearsal space, and keyboard instruments to accommodate all participants. July weather in Delaware is normally hot and humid, although the facilities are well air-conditioned.

What to Bring and What to Prepare

Please bring several pairs of xylophone mallets that are comfortable for you. One pair should be medium-hard rubber or plastic, as you would use for concert performance. The other pairs should be medium and medium-soft rubber for group and individual practice. Also bring several sets of contrasting marimba mallets – each student will be assigned five or six marimba accompaniment parts to play on the final concert. We want to voice ensemble parts appropriately.

Please obtain and bring the following two books by George Hamilton Green:

- 1) *GHG's New Series of Individual Instruction Courses for Xylophone and Marimba (Modern Improvising and Application of Ideas to Melody)*;
- 2) *GHG's Instruction Course for Xylophone*.

Both books are published by Meredith Music Publications and are available through Steve Weiss Music and others. These two books together form an encyclopedia of the performance techniques and styles we will study during the institute. In particular, please look in advance at Lesson 14 in 1), and Lesson 50 in 2).

A substantial (several hundred pages) handout of historical, technical and conceptual resource materials will be available to be copied. Bring, or be prepared to purchase, a large size, three-ring binder for the handout and any notes you may take during the session. There will also be a CD library of vintage xylophone solo recordings available to be copied.

All participants should have and learn (memorize!) the solo xylophone part to *Jovial Jasper* by George H. Green (xylophone solo published individually by Keyboard Percussion Publications, or in the collection *Xylophone Rags of George Hamilton Green* published by Meredith Music). In addition, each participant should prepare at least one other solo by Green, or another composer, in the novelty ragtime style (for example, any of Green's solos in the *Jazz Classics* series – *Triplets*, *Rainbow Ripples*, etc.), and one solo by Green, or another composer, in a more classical style (for example, any solos from Green's *Solo Series* – *Caprice Valsant*, *Valse Brillante*, *Spanish Waltz*, *Rain*, etc.). Please be sure to bring the accompaniment parts, either ensemble or piano, to each of your solos. Each student will perform a selection on the Saturday night program, so bring concert clothing that is comfortable for you. We will not dress formally, however, so don't bring tuxes, tails or gowns. If you like to wear a suit and tie when you perform, that is fine, or simply dress pants with a nice shirt or sweater top are equally appropriate. If you have any questions, you may feel free to email Mr. Becker at xylomusic@aol.com.