

Repeat performance by Ragtimist Bob Milne even better than first

By Miriam Toren

Another stand-up-and-cheer concert from Bob Milne, his second in Georgetown.. Another very full and enthusiastic house. The I.O.O.F. Hall was rocking with his Music on The Divide fund-raising concert Sunday, Nov. 19.

Milne is ragtime, boogie-woogie, syncopated music at its best. What did he play? You name it, he played it, and "wow-ed" the audience.

Bob Milne announced all of his numbers and gave the historical and musical background of each. In opening the concert he told the audience that ragtime is folk style music, not learned in a conservatory. Folk music is the basis of all music, including that of classical composers such as Bach and Mozart.

With "Gypsy Queen Rag" he showed the development of a number, from slow, lightly syncopated beat to a razz-ma-tazz buildup. Then he went into a blues number that gave the audience barrelhouse boogie-woogie. Barrelhouses were barn-like buildings, with the bar a plank stretched across two barrels. They were dangerous places with only one rule: "Don't shoot the piano player." To be heard above the noise, pianists developed strong left hand tones. Milne played this blues number with fantastic, incredibly fast finger work, and loud, cheering applause from the audience.

On this return visit to Georgetown, Milne played a great variety of music, basic to the development of ragtime; a Scott Joplin number, then "Plantation Echoes," an entry in an 1897 Chicago ragtime contest. He closed the first half of the concert with the 1866 "When You and I Were Young, Maggie." It was beautiful and nostalgic, with delicate syncopation.

There were many laudatory comments at intermission, while cookies were served by the Music Guild. John Plymyer, "Tremendous, tremendous." Marie Griffith, "I couldn't keep my foot from tapping." Shirlye Roberts, "This is so exciting. I love it." Sonya Adamson, "This is even better than he was last year. We should have him every year!"

pier." Milne's third tune was wild and spectacular and got thunderous applause. Then Milne surprised the audience with a sing-along "Happy Birthday" to some surprised persons whose birthdays happened to be Sunday.

Milne told the audience that this is the season for Christmas carols. A low voice came, as if from above, "Go for it." Milne played a beautifully syncopated "Joy to the World" and then "Silent Night," as it "might be heard in some south sea island." It was lovely, beautiful and a perfect start to the Christmas season.

Bob Milne took several questions from the audience, then closed the concert with "L'Overture le Grande Rodent." The hall erupted in clapping, cheering, sustained applause.

Other comments, Charlie Rose, "He is really great, outstanding." Jan Rose, "He is an artist at the piano." Sharon Cameron, "Oh, Dave and I loved it." Jan Croghan, "This was great." George Thomas summed it up with his comment, "This was a great concert. Milne is superb."

Monday morning Bob Milne delighted the students from Otter Creek, Creekside, and the fourth grade from Georgetown with a special concert for them in the I.O.O.F. Hall.