

The PARAGON RAGTIME ORCHESTRA

IN
Concert



"superbly presented....prize-worthy."
BBC MUSIC

"...protecting an important American treasure...not just
a pleasure to hear but for many a true revelation."
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



critically acclaimed

CONCERT PROGRAMS

BLUES JUNCTION

For centuries the “blues” was an underground folk music known only in African-American communities of the Deep South. It was not until 1912 that black bandmaster/composer W.C. Handy finally brought it to worldwide fame. Using his seminal, original blues scores, PRO’s BLUES JUNCTION shows how Prof. Handy transformed this soulful sound into America’s foremost pop style, and himself into the legendary “FATHER OF THE BLUES.”



“Summoning both the subtle interplay and brassy vitality these pieces demand, the PRO does itself proud.”

THE WASHINGTON POST

SCOTT JOPLIN & THE ORIGINAL KINGS OF RAGTIME

Travel back to the early 1900s as our modern world begins: the U.S.A. begins her love affairs with automobiles and electricity, flying machines take to the sky, and vaudeville creates American Idols. Join the PRO as it brings to life the thrilling sounds of Scott Joplin – “King of Ragtime Writers” – and his ingenious cohorts, as they invent “America’s Original Music.” PRO’s most popular program!

‘ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Offered November and December, this is PRO’s stylish and warm-hearted tribute to the nation’s Holiday music traditions. This program surprises with favorite Christmas songs played in their earliest arrangements, along with “novelties” and sparkling instrumental and vocal soloists. As a finale, the Orchestra accompanies Santa Claus on the screen as he makes his first movie appearance in Thomas Edison’s film *The Night Before Christmas*.

GEORGE M. COHAN’S BROADWAY

For generations, the name GEORGE M. COHAN has conjured the rollicking song and dance magic that is Broadway. And it’s true: as America’s beloved songwriter and first “Song & Dance Man,” Cohan really was the father of modern musical theater. This new PRO program – starring Colin Pritchard – offers a stirring look at George M’s amazing life and career. It’s a bravura performance that brings audiences to their feet!

“The music is incomparably sweet and stirring. And Rick Benjamin, who founded and conducts the PRO, is a musician of wit and sensibility.”

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER



THE PARAGON RAGTIME ORCHESTRA

“WHERE AMERICA’S MUSIC BEGINS” SM

