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## Stride Pianist Stephanie Trick April 15 at Clairbourn School



**Pianist Stephanie Trick (r) is seen with noted jazz-pianist Paul T. Smith in January.**

You have to be old to have even heard the term “stride” piano, but you’d better be youthful to perform this unique American style of popular music that traces its roots to jazz and finally melds with ragtime. One exponent of this music is young Stephanie Trick who is currently touring the country bringing the piano style (and music) of Scott Joplin, Thomas “Fats” Waller, Art Tatum and others to an eager public. One stop, at the behest of a local woman, will be at the Clairbourn School in San Gabriel at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 15 where she will perform many of the numbers from her CD albums. Admission is free for this concert.

The joyous music that marked the turn of the 20th-Century evolved over a forty year period into ragtime music and popular music, music that is head spinning, toe-tapping and recognizable. The music includes such standards as Joplin’s well-known “Maple Leaf Rag”, George Gershwin’s “Liza” and “Fats” Waller’s “Ain’t Misbehavin’ “.

Stride piano is the style using the left hand on the keyboard, slightly syncopated, in a one-two, one-two, one-two, rhythm while the right hand stylistically plays the strong melody line. Attempts to distinguish stride from jazz, ragtime or swing has flummoxed even Max Morath, one of the nation’s leading authorities and performers of this kind of music.

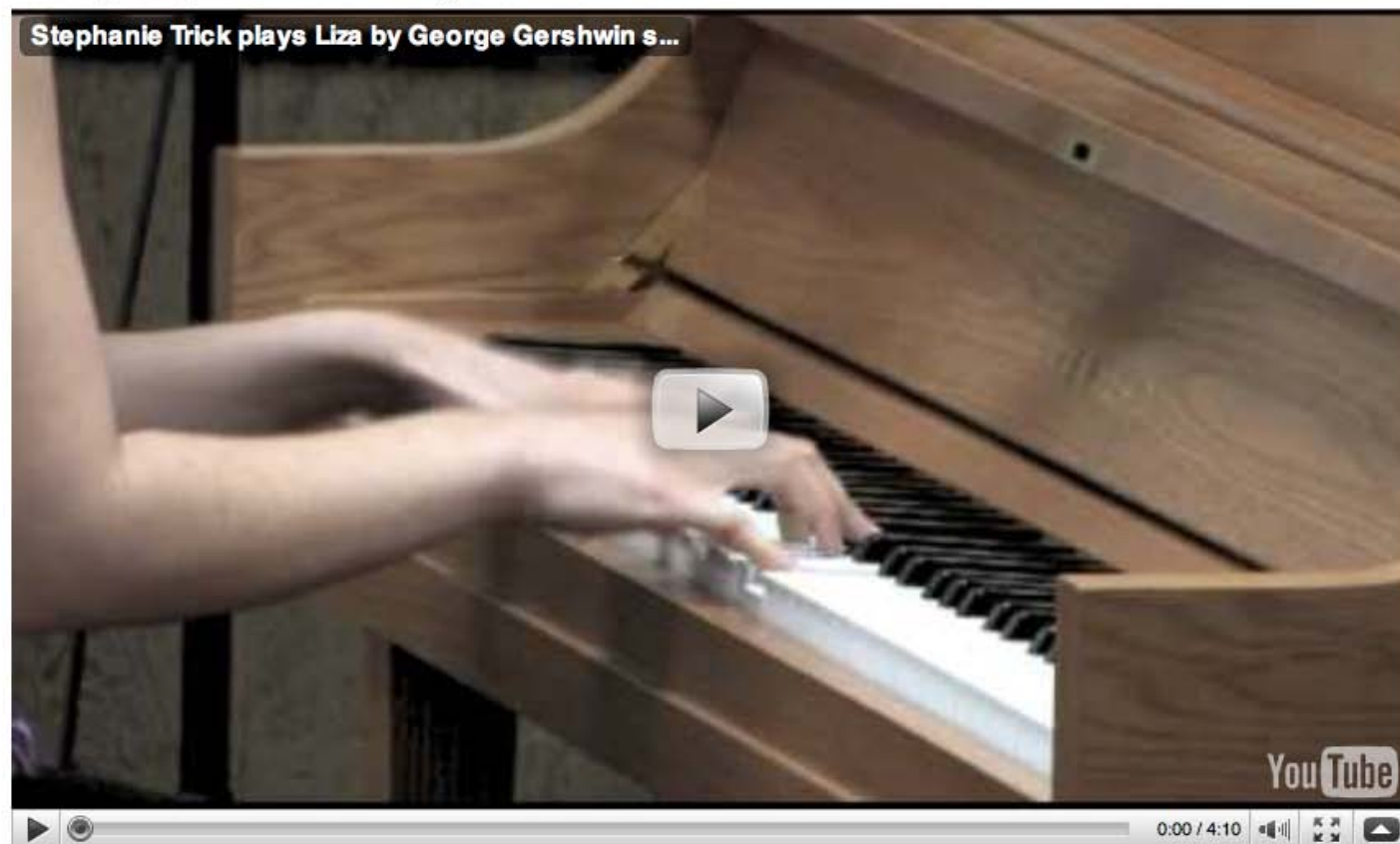
“The early piano rags are essentially syncopated marches with that very steady left hand which represents the bass, the drums, the tuba,” Morath suggested in an interview with Christopher M. Wright. “I don’t think we can say ragtime in its early sense ‘swings’ like the music of the 1930’s.”

Ms. Trick's current tour includes stops in St. Louis, Mo., at the Scott Joplin House, and a solo performance at the Sheldon Concert Hall, and ends at the West Coast Ragtime Festival in Sacramento in November. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music. Although classically trained, she professes that early on she became attracted to the American music style, including both the ragtime and the stride. She has become both accomplished in the playing style and noted by major people in the field. This past January she was honored to be on the program with the Paul Smith Trio in a concert at Whittier College at the end of January. Smith, now 88, has a resume that includes arrangements for Tommy Dorsey, playing gigs with just about every popular singer from 1940 on, and a long stint as accompanist for Ella Fitzgerald.

"Traditional jazz and stride piano played an integral role in the development of American Culture. That legacy should not be forgotten," Trick says. She hopes she can bring about a greater appreciation for America's rich musical heritage. To that end, Trick accepted an invitation from Clairbourn School Trustee Donna Ballenger of Pasadena, to perform at the school. It is through this friendship that Stephanie Trick appears at the school.

Clairbourn School is an independent, preparatory day school for boys and girls serving preschool through eighth grade. The Clairbourn School is at 8400 Huntington Dr., San Gabriel. For information, please call (626) 286-3108.

To sample Stephanie Trick's artistry, click here



**By Bill Peters**

<http://petersmusicnews.com/2010/04/stride-pianist-stephanie-trick-april-15-at-clairbourn-school/>