

Ragtime Fridays

Join Keith Taylor every Friday for an hour of piano music

By **Lisa Britton**
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — This piano, Keith Taylor says, is special. He points to the right damper pedal where a hole has developed from countless depressions by his foot.

"It's been with me a long time — probably 50 years," Taylor said. "It has that sound that can only be achieved by thousands and thousands of hours of playing. It just sings."

Taylor started playing piano at age 3. These days you can find him every Friday night playing an hour of ragtime piano tunes at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn Ave.

He's been a mainstay in the local music scene for years, start-

RAGTIME PIANO WITH KEITH TAYLOR

4:30-5:30 p.m. Fridays
Crossroads Carnegie Art Center
2020 Auburn Ave.
Baker City
Admission is free

ing at Mad Matilda's when it was located on Main Street. Then he changed to Crossroads.

"We rolled the piano down here," he said.

He begins at 4:30 p.m., but doesn't play right away.

"I'm going to start with a music lesson," he said on a recent Friday.

The day's topic is "minimal music."

"The composer takes an idea and plays it over and over and over. But they do it with style and class," he said.

Then he turns to the piano and plays an example.

After each song, Taylor looks to his audience and encourages

questions or requests. Sometimes, the discussion inspires him to play a certain tune.

Like the "Monastery Bells Waltz."

"It took me a long time to learn it, about a year," he said. "It has a story, but I think it's best if you make up your own."

He supplies a stack of music books to browse for request ideas. He can play almost anything. And if he doesn't know the song, he'll still try.

"It's a challenge. I can come up with something," he said with a smile.

WHAT'S RAGTIME?

Taylor plays ragtime, which was a popular style from about 1895 to 1919.

"Then it started morphing into jazz," he said.

For his weekly concerts, Taylor welcomes both those who like to listen and those who like to play.

"I invite and encourage other musicians to join me," he said.



Lisa Britton/Go! Magazine

Keith Taylor plays ragtime piano music every Friday, 4:30-5:30 p.m., at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center in Baker City.



Winter Classes at Crossroads

www.crossroads-arts.org

February Classes

February 10	Paper Flower Bouquets 6:00-8:00pm <i>Easy care bouquets for your valentine - family friendly!</i>
February 12	Colored Pencil Workshop 10:00am-4:00pm
February 19	The Artisan Stone and Loaf 10:30am-3:30pm <i>Make your own bread and the stone to bake it on!</i>

February 24	Tie-Dye with NEW ice-dyeing option 6:00-8:00pm
Tuesdays	Copper Foil Stained Glass 6:30-9:00pm February 15, February 22, March 1, March 8

March

March 5	Barn Quilt Painting Workshop 9:30am-3:00pm
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Crossroads is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm

Crossroads in accordance with the Oregon Health Authority requires masks for everyone age 5 and above.

2020 Auburn Avenue
Baker City, Oregon
541.523.5369
www.crossroads-arts.org

