

# Finding Aid to the Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Records

(#2021-02)

**Repository:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

**Collection Title:** Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band records

**Collection Number:** 2021-02

**Physical Description:** 17 linear feet (2 cartons, 6 manuscript boxes, 1 ½ manuscript box, 11 oversized boxes)

**Creator:** Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band

**Date (inclusive):** 1977-2021 (bulk 1977-1992)

**Language of Material:** English, with one document in German

**Abstract:** Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band, based in San Francisco, consists of 10 musicians drawn together because of a shared enthusiasm for ragtime, a predecessor of jazz. It was led by Bruce Vermazen. The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band collection includes administrative documents, correspondences, photographs, music sheets, periodicals, and reel-to-reel tapes.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of item], Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band records (#2021-02), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights:**

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**Acquisition Information:**

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Bruce Vermazen in May, 2021.

**Processing Information:**

Finding Aid created by Vi Bui in 2021.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

**Organizational History Note:** The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band was begun in August of 1978 to play for fundraisers to defeat that year's infamous Proposition 6, the measure to legalize firing of public school teachers for being lesbian or gay. Fundraising organizations often needed groups smaller than the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, at that time the only openly gay musical organization in the community, to entertain, so Marching Band director Jon Sims brainstormed with others to bring some into existence. The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band is a "small theatre orchestra", an ensemble that was the standard for theatre and dance work around the turn of the century. The instruments include two violins, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, cornet, trombone, tuba, and piano. They played American popular music from 1890 to 1920 with special emphasis on rags, but including marches, waltzes, polkas, intermezzos, Broadway and vaudeville songs, sentimental ballads, and once in a while even a redowa or a polonaise. Besides numerous Bay Area venues, the Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band performed at jazz and ragtime festivals in Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, Petaluma, and Sedalia, and Missouri. They played benefits for the Gay Games (when they were still the Gay Olympics), the Names Project and other AIDS organizations, Tom Ammiano, and the National Lawyers Guild's gay rights project. They were on the cover of the Advocate in 1981.

**Scope and Content:** The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Collection includes administrative documents, correspondence, photographs, music sheets, periodicals, newspaper clippings. and reel-to-reel and cassette tapes. There are also a number of artifacts, including large show cards bearing the names of songs, a basket of faux chrysanthemums used in performances, a band uniform jacket with decorations, and an easel used to display the show cards.

**Indexing Terms:**

Music

Theater

Gay Games

**Container Listing**

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- 1:2 Tulloss, Rodham, undated
- 1:3 Come On and Hear: 1988 Series, 1988
- 1:4 Come On and Hear #71 et. seg., 1987
- 1:5 Come On and Hear #53 et. Seg., circa 1985
- 1:6 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live on KCSM, 1986
- 1:7 KALW Project: "Come On and Hear", circa 1983-1986
- 1:8 Valencia Rose, 1983-1985
- 1:9 Variety Arts Center, 1986
- 1:10 Woodland Opera House, 1987-1990
- 1:11 Guerneville Woods Resort, 1985
- 1:12 Villa Chrysanthemum, 1988
- 1:13 Letters about Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Breakup, 1991

#### Box 2

- 2:1 Miscellaneous Documents, circa 1986
- 2:2 Hotel Utah, 1980
- 2:3 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Miscellaneous Documents, 1989
- 2:4 Photographs, 1983
- 2:5 "Blue Dolphin", October 16, 1988 Photographs, 1988
- 2:6 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Bouquet Photographs, 1985
- 2:7 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Early Photos Miscellaneous, 1980
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- 2:9 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Publicity, circa 1986-1988
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- 2:13 Gay Freedom Day, 1980
- 2:14 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band California Album, 1987

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- 3:1 Correspondence, circa 1980-1991
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- 3:8 American Folk Arts Festival, 1979

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- 3:10 Chrysanthemum at the Palace of Fine Arts, 1984
- 3:11 BV Writings and Drawings, circa 1984-1987
- 3:12 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Photographs, circa 1988
- 3:13 Academy of Sciences, 1986

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- 4:1 Newspapers, 1977-1991
- 4:2 Fall, 1988
- 4:3 Rehearsal, 1991
- 4:4 Record Sales, 1991
- 4:5 Reviews, circa 1980-1987
- 4:6 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band, Plowshares Photographs, circa 1980-1981
- 4:7 Sacramento, 1984,1987
- 4:8 San Diego, 1987
- 4:9 Sacramento, 1987
- 4:10 Sedalia, 1987
- 4:11 Fresno Festival, 1989
- 4:12 Farewell Concert, 1992
- 4:13 Erdos/Bromage, circa 1983-1984
- 4:14 Dunsmuir House- Oakland, 1990

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- 5:1 Coming Home Hospice Benefit, 1987
- 5:2 No on Prop 64, 1986
- 5:3 No on Prop 102, 1988
- 5:4 Society of California Pioneers, 1985
- 5:5 Other Gigs, circa 1978-1991
- 5:6 Stomp Off, circa 1983-1992
- 5:7 Stern Grove, 1980
- 5:8 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Studio Portraits, 1989
- 5:9 Advocate Experience, 1980
- 5:10 Theater Orchestra Arrangements & Composition for Solo Piano: Bruce Vermazen, undated
- 5:11 Tune Lists, circa 1980-1986
- 5:12 Victorian Dinner of Ceremony Invitation; Document in German, undated

Box 6

- Manners Nr. 6 Gratis, Oktober/November 1990
- New York's Weekly Gay Guide Where It's At, August 1, 1977

New York Is Everybody Gay? By Paul Rudnick, June 20, 1994  
Stars World's Largest Gay Correspondence Magazine, No.5  
Gay Games II, Official Program, August, 1986  
People Weekly, June 9, 1986  
Data Boy, Issue 198, Pacific Southwest, May 31, 1978  
Gay Areas Private Telephone Directory, Winter 1983, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
After Dark, June 1979  
Christopher Street, Gay Theater Issue, June 1978  
Christopher Street, The President's Nephew, June 1979  
The 1980 Gay Freedom Day Parade & Celebration, Sunday 29 June, San Francisco  
People Weekly, June 16, 1986  
Christopher Street, December 1977  
TIME, April 23, 1979  
Playguy, the magazine of male erotica, Volume 1, Number 4  
Playguy, the magazine for men who like things manly, Volume 1, Number 9  
Mandate, The International Magazine of Entertainment and Eros, January 1982  
Blueboy, July 1978  
Man's Way, Volume 1/ No.1  
Christopher Street, ISSN 0146-7921, May 1979  
TIME, July 4, 1983  
In Touch, For Men, Number 52  
In Touch, For Men, Number 64  
San Francisco Examiner, IMAGE, June 4, 1989  
In Touch, For Men, Number 59  
Christopher Street, March 1979  
In Touch, For Men, Number 48  
In Touch, For Men, Number 76

#### Box 7

7:1 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band General Documents  
ABA Journal The Lawyer's Magazine, June 1, 1986  
International Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day, 27 June 1982  
Christopher Street, February 1978  
San Francisco Focus Power, March 1987  
San Francisco Magazine, September 1980  
Christopher Street, Issue 72  
TIME, February 16, 1987

Carton 1:

Chrysanthemum 2/10/1985 Dicken's: A Christmas Carol Tape #3 (59:18)  
Chrysanthemum 06/09/1985 Part II  
Chrysanthemum 06/23/1986 Part I  
Chrysanthemum 05/04/1985  
Chrysanthemum 02/10/1985 Part II  
Chrysanthemum 04/14/1985 Part II  
Chrysanthemum 06/23/1986 Part II  
Chrysanthemum 04/14/1985 Part I  
Chrysanthemum 02/10/1985 Part I  
Chrysanthemum 03/10/1985  
Vocal Tracks 06/09/1985

Carton 2:

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band – First Annual Farewell Dance and Concert (December 5, 1992)

Come on and Hear FA-3-83 (29:00)  
Come on and Hear 11/12/1983 (30:00)  
Come on and Hear SP-2 (32:00)  
Come on and Hear SP-10-84 (29:40)  
Come on and Hear W-4-84 (29:35)  
Come on and Hear SU-9-84 (29:40)  
Come on and Hear SU-11 (28:00)  
Come on and Hear SU-5 (29:30)  
Come on and Hear W-9-83 (28:00)  
Come on and Hear FA-6-83 (28:10)  
Come on and Hear SP-4 (29:00)  
Come on and Hear WW-7-84 (30:25)  
Come on and Hear W-11-84 (34:30)  
Come on and Hear SU-7 (28:40)

9/23/66

Vermazen 37-41

Mums Live! Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 1986-88

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Divertimenti

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band RAGS from KALW

Come on and Hear SU-9-84  
Come on and Hear SP-1-84 (30:00)  
Come on and Hear W-1-84 (32:30)  
Come on and Hear SP-9 (30:00)  
Come on and Hear SU-4-84 (30:00)  
Come on and Hear SP-12 (33:00)

Chrysanthemum Demo Tape

Come on and Hear W-12-84 (33:00)

Come on and Hear SP-7 (29:20)

Come on and Hear W-2-84 (35:14)

Come on and Hear SP-7-84 (29:30)

Oversize Box 1:

The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger's 06/23/1985

Chrysanthemum Band Live 12/11/1988

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Hotel Utah 09/12/1981

Hotel Utah 09/12/1981

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at KALW: reel D

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at KALW: reel F

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at KALW: reel G

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at KALW: reel E

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 09/12/1982

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band January 9, 1983 Valencia Rose

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at AshKenaz 09/14/1986

ZENOBIA

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at KALW: reel C

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at KALW: reel B

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at KALW: reel A

Chrysanthemums: KALW tapes: K

Chrysanthemums: KALW tapes: I & J

Chrysanthemums: KALW tapes: G & H

Chrysanthemums: KALW tapes: E & F

Chrysanthemums: KALW tapes: C & D

Chrysanthemums: KALW tapes: A & B

Scott Foglesong: piano solos

Come on and Hear #24 & #25 12/10/1983, 12/17/1983

Come on and Hear #64 & #67

Come on and Hear #37 & #38

Come on and Hear #27 & #28

Come on and Hear #31 & #33

Reel B

Reel C

Reel E

Come on and Hear

Come on and Hear #29 & #35

Come on and Hear #26  
“Music in the Air” Chrysanthemum Band  
Come on and Hear #43  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band KALW 05/08/1983  
Dancing on the Edge of the World  
Joy Rag: The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band (S.O.S. 1196)  
30<sup>th</sup>

#### Oversize Box 2

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band – Hilites - 09/12/1981  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 02/19/1982 Valencia Rose Cafe San Francisco  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Preserves: More Candidates  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 02/21/1980  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 06/23/1979 Hotel Utah  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Demo II  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live at Ashkenaz 10/12/1986  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger’s 02/26/1984  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Garden Ball Room & Regency Hall Town & Country Hotel San Diego Jazz Festival, California 11/29/1987  
Chrysanthemum at Ashkenaz 07/13/1986 (Paul Johnson)  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band – The Best of ‘Em 1982  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at AMICA 07/31/1983  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger’s 06/23/1985  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Concert 04/13/1986  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger’s 02/26/1984  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Valencia Rose 03/11/1984 Side 2  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 06/14/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 01/11/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger’s 06/23/1985 I  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger’s 06/23/1985 II  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 06/12/1988  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 05/17/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 02/1980 Scott Joplin Rags – Joshua Rifkin 1  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at the Hotel Utah 11/10/1979  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Feb 1980 Scott Joplin Rags – Joshua Rifkin  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band; Excerpts from Academy of Sciences 04/19/1986 & Amica 07/20/1986  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band in Sacramento 05/18/1991  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 07/04/1984 Sebastopol California

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band – Fresno, November 1989  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Ashkenaz, 03/16/1986, Part II  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Sacramento Ragtime Ball 05/18/1991  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Lowie Museum 10/29/1982  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Ashkenaz 06/15/1986  
The Elite Syncopators + Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band + Others  
Albion Hall, San Francisco, California, March 21, 1982 – Gay Olympics  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at the Valencia Rose 11/13/1983  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 11/08/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 10/18/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 03/15/1987  
Palm Leaf Orchestra & Combines Palm Leaf & Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 11/19/1989  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 02/08/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band – The Best of ‘Em  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 06/13/1981  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 01/24/1982 Albion Hall - Gay Olympics  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band #3: Candidate Selections  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 11/10/1985  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at the Ashkenaz, March 1986  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at the Academy of Sciences, GG Park, San Francisco,  
04/19/1986  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger’s 06/23/1985  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band PPI E Mar 22, Berkeley, California  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 10/13/1985  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Bruce Vermazen and Scott Foglesong (03/06/1987)  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 04/10/1988  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Ashkenaz 03/16/1986, Part I  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger’s 02/26/1984  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band First Annual Farewell Ball 12/05/1992  
Hotel Utah, 06/14/1980  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Hotel Utah, 02/09/1980  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Band Valencia Rose 12/12/1982  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 11/13/1983 Concert  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band ?  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Recorded Live at the Hotel Utah, 06/23/1979  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Hotel Utah 02/03/1979  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Part 1&2 Recorded Live at the Hotel Utah 05/09/1981  
Hotel Utah 04/11/1981  
04/18/1982 Valencia Rose

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band – Valencia Rose 05/23/1982  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 07/18/1982  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band - 2<sup>nd</sup> Record Audition  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 1980/1981  
Bay Area Ragtime  
Bruce & Scott: Art Club 03/06/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 04/28/1979  
Bringing ‘Em Back Alive: Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Next-to-Final Mix  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Album Takes  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live at Henry’s 09/25/1986  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band: Ragtime Ball in Sacramento 05/18/1991 (Master Tape)  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger’s, 07/31/1983  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 01/12/1986  
Hotel Utah 11/08/1988  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Hotel Utah 05/09/1981  
AMICA Concert at 824 Grove, 07/20/1986

#### Oversize Box 3

Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at KALW: Reel H  
Scott’s Solos: June 1985  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 09/21/1985 Reel 3  
Recorded at K.P.F.A. Studio 04/01/1980, Broadcast on Fruit Punch 04/02/1980  
Come On and Hear #49  
Come On and Hear #52  
Come On and Hear #138 #14  
Come On and Hear #15 and #18  
Come On and Hear #17 and #19 10/22/1983 and 11/05/1983  
Come On and Hear #20 and #21 11/12/1983 and 11/19/1983  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band #1 KALW Broadcast 05/27/1983  
Come On and Hear #22 and #23 11/26/1983 and 12/03/1983  
Come On and Hear #8 08/20/1983  
KQED-FM West Coast Weekend 10/10/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Bay Soundings KQED-FM San Francisco (09/11/1984)  
KQED Interview 10/13/1984  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band KPFA 04/01/1980  
Come On and Hear #1 and #2 07/02/1983 and 07/09/1983  
Come On and Hear #5 and #6 and KMEL Interview  
Come On and Hear #3 and #4 07/16/1983 and 07/23/1983  
Come On and Hear Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Stomp Off S.O.S. 1979

Come On and Hear #53 & #56  
Come On and Hear #39 & #39/40  
Come On and Hear #44 and #45  
Come On and Hear #48 and #50  
Come On and Hear (broadcast) Small Theatre Orchestra Arrangements, Bruce Vermazen  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band: Come On and Hear (aircheck)  
Come On and Hear #41 and #57  
Come On and Hear #53 and #54  
Come On and Hear #56 and #57  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Recording Sessions 03/31 and 04/07/1984  
MUMS II  
MUMS III  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 4<sup>th</sup> Album Session 09/20-21/1986  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band CRO St. DOL S.O.S. 1123  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band a. Dengoza (Maxixe), b. One Step or Two Step Music  
MUMS #3: More Candidates  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band California Tape  
MUMS #3: Candidate Selections I  
Chrysanthemums/ Erdos Tape  
MUMS at Bay Records 04/03/1988  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band: Dancing on the Edge of the World  
MUMS #3: Candidate Selections II  
Joy Rag: MUMS Vol. 5  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band, Audition Tape – Vol. 2  
CRB 1/22-23  
Joy Rag (without piano solo)  
Joy Rag, Part II (S.O.S. 1196)  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Retakes for #1079 03/04/1984  
Joy Rag-complete (S.O.S. 1196)  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Demo Master  
MUMS at Bay Records 02/13/1988  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band 1/22-23  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Four Pieces for the Arts Club 03/06/1987  
KCSM Tape 06/08/1985 Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band – KQED West Coast Weekend 10/10/1987  
Come On and Hear #58 or #63  
MUMS 02/01/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Vol. 3  
MUMS at Bay Records 05/12/1988

MUMS at Bay Records 04/14/1988  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Dancing on the Edge of the World  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band "Bringin' 'Em Back Alive" Final Mix  
MUMS Rehearsal Before the Record  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band S.O.S. 1079 – Revised  
CRB 09/21/1985 Reels 1 & 2  
The Ragtime Ball Tape 2 12/12/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band AMICA Party 07/31/1983 (Farewell to David LaMarche)  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger's 06/23/1985  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at AMICA 07/26/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 02/14/1988  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Live 07/12/1987  
The Ragtime Ball Tapel 12/12/1987  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger's 02/26/1984  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Hotel Utah 03/28/1979  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Part 3 & 4, Hotel Utah 05/09/1981  
MUMS 08/30/1986 K.&R.W Jazz Festival  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band Saturday, 11/04/1981, Second Set, Hotel Utah  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at Dick Reutlinger's 06/23/1985  
Christmas Concert 1980 Hotel Utah  
Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band at the Academy of Sciences 4/19/1986

Oversize Box 4

Castanet

Matchboxes

Stamps

Train whistle

A button

Oversize 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 have various show cards

Large artifacts stored separately include uniform jacket and a basket of false chrysanthemum and easel use to display show cards.