

MUSIC MACHINE TIDBITS

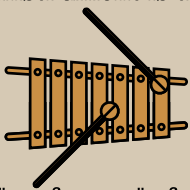
Let this be your passport to a journey back in time. A time when all music was performed live. A time before smart phones and online streaming; before CDs, tapes, records, and radio. When music had to be experienced as it was being performed. Recorded music has existed for hundreds if not thousands of years, but it had to be reproduced live by intricately crafted mechanical devices that replicated human performers.

Ancient Greeks had crude self-playing mechanical pipe organs. Tower carillon bells appeared throughout Europe in the 13th century. Self-playing mechanisms were adapted for early keyboard instruments by the 17th century. In the 1700s music boxes were introduced. Through the 1800s, mechanical music blossomed, crafted in all shapes and sizes from small pocket sized music boxes to large self-playing pipe organs and



orchestrations able to fill a crowded concert hall with music. By the early 1900s, mechanical music reached a high level of sophistication with the introduction of automatic pianos, organs and orchestrations that operated from perforated paper music rolls. Many were made to be coin-operated and were displayed in all manner of public places to deliver music to the masses.

The popularity of these public music machines lasted about 30 years, replaced by the phonograph and radio. Today, automatic music machines are difficult to find, mostly existing in private collections and museums, relics of a bygone era. It may be the elusive, never-to-be-recaptured feeling of an earlier era that makes such instruments so fascinating today. The sound produced by a properly restored automatic musical instrument is the exact sound that our ancestors heard and enjoyed. One can listen to an old phonograph record or view an old film, but the experience is reproduced through a medium. It is not so with these musical time machines. There is no medium between today's listener and the



"performer" of years ago. The performer is here today and plays for you undiminished, with nothing lost or changed, just as in years past. The performance that delights the listener today may have delighted, in exactly the same way, Queen Victoria, Teddy Roosevelt, a Chicago speakeasy patron, or a Paris streetwalker years ago. Through the music of such machines, the emotions and entertainment of another time and place, come to life unaltered and undimmed today. Follow the trail illustrated in this pamphlet and discover several of these magical musical time machines located throughout Uptown Marysville.

The Nickel Music Collection features personal instruments and related items of a few collectors, including Bart Off and Dave Ramey, and is maintained by D.C. Ramey Piano Company in special cooperation with Brad McClincy.

UPTOWN MARYSVILLE

MUSIC MACHINE

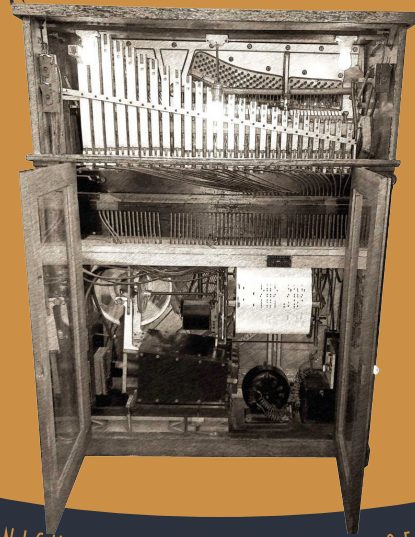
TRAIL

ONLY
5¢



ON DISPLAY

JUNE - AUGUST, 2022



FROM THE NICKEL MUSIC COLLECTION OF D.C. RAMEY

VisitUnionCountyOhio.org/music-machine-trail

D.C. Ramey Piano Company
dcramey.com • Marysville, Ohio

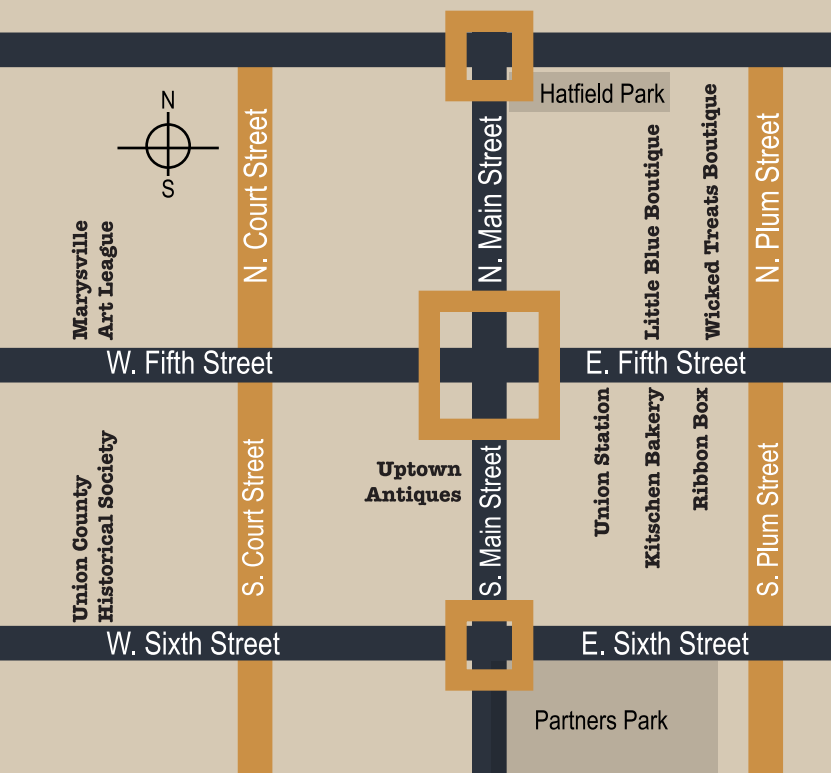
Union County Convention & Visitors Bureau
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MUSIC MACHINE TRAIL GUIDE

JUNE - AUGUST

1. Wander the trail between June 1 and August 31 at your leisure.
2. Have trail guide stamped at each location. (store hours vary)
3. Redeem completed trail guide at Union Station 1820 for a Music Machine souvenir prize.



D.C. RAMEY PIANO COMPANY
MARYSVILLE, OHIO

Since 1955, Dave Ramey Sr. set the standard of excellence in automatic musical instrument restoration. He received his education and training while maintaining the nickelodeon collection at Svoboda's Nickelodeon Tavern and Museum (Chicago Heights) during the 1960s.

Dave has trained some of today's most skilled craftsman in the art of mechanical music restoration. Upon earning the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, his son David Jr. began working full-time at the family business in 1986, after years of working after school and summers alongside his father.

David Jr. relocated the family business from the Chicago area to Marysville in 2008.

ALL MUSIC MACHINES ARE NICKEL OPERATED

STORE HOURS VARY



Kitschen Bakery
117 E. Fifth St.
Machine: Ramey Encore Banjo
Instruments: banjo
Made in Marysville in 2015



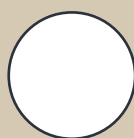
Little Blue Boutique
120 E. Fifth St.
Machine: Link 2E
Instruments: piano with xylophone
Made in Binghamton, NY in 1924



Marysville Art League
264 W. Fifth St.
Machine: Seeburg K
Instruments: piano with violin pipes
Made in Chicago in 1921



Ribbon Box Cakery
121 E. Fifth St.
Machine: Seeburg K
Instruments: piano with xylophone
Made in Chicago in 1925



Wicked Treats Boutique
138 E. Fifth St.
Machine: Seeburg KT
Instruments: piano with violin pipes & percussion
Made in Chicago in 1923



Union Station 1820
109 E. Fifth St.
Machine: Ramey Banjo-Orchestra
Instruments: piano with banjo & percussion
Made in Chicago in 1994



Union County Historical Society
246 W. Sixth St.
Limited hours
Admission encouraged but not required
Wednesday 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
1st & 3rd Sunday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Machine: Seeburg K
Instruments: piano with flute pipes
Made in Chicago in 1917



Uptown Antiques
117 S. Main St.
Limited hours
Friday 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Machine: Seeburg KT
Instruments: piano with xylophone & percussion
Made in Chicago in 1924



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go.visitunioncountyohio.org