



**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
Invites you to its meeting, March 20, 2024, at 11 am at  
**First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT.**  
The program will also be shown on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>

## **Peter Muir**

### **“Pioneers of Ragtime.”**



This presentation is a virtuoso exploration of the toe-tapping piano style that set America alight a hundred years ago and gave rise to styles such as blues and jazz. Peter Muir performs and explains the syncopated musings of Scott Joplin (“Maple Leaf Rag”), Fats Waller, W. C. Handy, Jelly Roll Morton and many others, providing a wide-ranging overview of the genre. He explains what ragtime is, how it arose, and why it is such an important link in the development of American music and culture.

Muir started his professional musical life age eight as a chorister in Westminster Abbey. He later studied at the Royal College of Music, London, then pursued a dual career as an educator and performer, becoming Director of Jazz and Head of Keyboards at

Westminster School, and a jazz pianist performing in clubs and concert venues throughout the UK. He trained with Dr. John Diamond, the foremost authority in using music for health, applying the principles of his work to his performing and teaching.

In 1997 he relocated to the US, earning a PhD in musicology at City College of New York. He taught at City University then became director of the Institute for Music Health, New York, and on the guest faculty of the Graduate Institute in Bethany, CT. He continues to be active as a pianist and vocalist, performing a wide range of classical and vernacular styles, from Bach to Jelly Roll Morton to the Beatles, at festivals and concerts across the US, Britain, Europe, and Australasia.

Dr. Muir’s first book, *Long Lost Blues: Popular Blues in America 1850-1920*, was published in 2010. He is currently at work on a book summarizing his unique approach to the teaching and making of music, and another that is a groundbreaking anthology of early published blues and proto-blues.

**Our next speaker, on March 27, will be David Richards, on “Collecting Shakespeare’s First Folio in America.”**

*The Greenwich Retired Men's Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at **10:40 am** followed promptly by our presentation at **11:00 am**. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Ave. in Greenwich. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org).*