

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

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***Will the Real Thomas Wiggins Please Stand Up!***

**conceived, written and performed by**

**John Davis**

**Piano Works: Thomas Wiggins (a.k.a. “Blind Tom”)**

**Photography: John Davis**

**Voiceovers: Mary Adams, Christopher Bowman,  
Stephen Wetta and William Stoops**

**Additional Photography: John Halpern**

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Cyclone Galop

Thomas Wiggins  
(1849-1908)

The Rain Storm

Sewing Song: Imitation of a Sewing Machine

The Battle of Manassas

Virginia Polka

Reve Charmant: Nocturne

Voiceovers recorded at Dubway Studios, NYC.  
Photograph of Ricky Jay by Richard Avedon  
Photograph of Oliver Sacks by Rosalie Winard

This performance is a Southern Literary Trail Trailfest 2015 event, presented by Broussard's Piano Gallery, Mobile Arts Council, the University of South Alabama Department of Music, Davidson High School, Historic Mobile Preservation Society and Mobile Public Library.

This program has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state agency of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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**The Fifty-eighth Concert of Academic Year 2014-2015**

**RECITAL HALL  
LAIDLAW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
Sunday, February 22, 2015  
3:00 p.m.**

Via his performances, recordings, and writings, pianist **John Davis** continues to define, excavate, and disseminate a previously-unacknowledged American roots music. To date, Davis is most associated with three seminal CDs on the Newport Classic label: *John Davis Plays Blind Tom* [2000], a top-ten seller in Classical music at Tower Records and Amazon.com; *Marshfield Tornado: John Davis Plays Blind Boone* [2008], a repeat No. 1 seller on the Ragtime Chart at Amazon.com; and *Halley's Comet: Around the Piano with Mark Twain & John Davis* [2010], a tribute to the wide-ranging musical interests of an author whose career, like Davis's, lies at the intersection of black and white culture and high and low culture in American society. The materials and ideas behind these recordings and their related multi-media theatrical concerts, as well as Davis's literary contributions to *African American Lives*, the *African American National Biography*, and *Stress and Coping in Autism*, all published by Oxford University Press, draw extensively upon the pianist's instrumental mastery cultivated at Brown University and The Juilliard School; his personal collection of rare 19<sup>th</sup>-century printed African Americana; and his frequent road trips to remote corners of the United States. Davis's cutting-edge career has been featured on CNN; CNN-International; ABC Radio National (Australia); the *BBC World News*; NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Here & Now*, *Performance Today*, and *On Point*, with Tom Ashbrook; PBS' *Life 360*; *The Today Show* on NBC; ABC's *Good Morning America*; and in a program-long interview on ABC's *Nightline Up-Close*. Among the many print publications in which Davis has been profiled are *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Oxford American*, *The Independent* (London), and *Scientific American*.

