

Foot-Pumper Contest Invitation

This year at the 2025 AMICA/MBSI Convention in Chicago, IL, the Foot-Pumper Contest will take place on Thursday evening. This is a truly AMICA tradition that, in my opinion, is one of the highlights of our Convention. It has all the suspense, excitement, and amazement that comes from creating a REALISTIC performance from a paper music roll! To accomplish that, the performer needs an instrument that can respond to the nuances of snappy pedaling, tempo changes, and through the judicious use the levers in the key slip, expression. The featured instrument this year will be a Seybold player piano, made in Elgin, Illinois. Jerry Biasella is working with Kurt Kresmery, to make sure it is in top shape for the competition.

This is a good-humored event that has a panel of judges who will score each contestant based on a loosely-followed set of rules that can be found on the AMICA website or at the end of this article. Bring your favorite 88 note performance roll along with others to play at your leisure during the convention. Please don't be shy about entering. With the allotted time we should have up to 12 entries that will be taken on a first-come basis.

If you're the winner, you will have the exclusive right to keep the "Golden Footsie Award" for a whole year! It comes with its own carrying case for easy transportation and, like the famous hockey Stanley Cup, the names of all past winners are engraved on the trophy. Please send me an e-mail if you'd like to participate.

Sincerely,

Joel Cluskey, Convention Co-Chair and Past President
Email: Ampico2018@gmail.com