



Issue # 352

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

HISTORIC PALM COTTAGE™ PIANO GETS BACK IN TUNE

Imagine, if you can, a time when the world was a lot quieter. No blaring televisions, no one walking around with earbuds or talking on cell phones. At the turn of the century if you strolled what is now the Naples Historic District, you might hear the lapping of Gulf waves, front porch conversations, or even live music being played by one of the homeowners.

One such musically inclined resident was Alexandra Brown, a former owner of what is now known as Historic Palm Cottage, who tickled the ivories regularly for all within earshot to enjoy. Her treasured piano has resided at Palm Cottage since the 1940s adding to its character and charm. Unfortunately, it too fell victim to Hurricane Ian. Water and humidity take a toll on wooden instruments, and Mrs. Brown's piano was no exception.

Thankfully, an Anonymous Society Friend, inspired by stories of Mrs. Brown's desire to provide music for the neighborhood, has stepped up to fund the refurbishing of the Mason & Hamlin Upright (Model E). The piano is now in the hands of Bill McKaig, of McKaig Piano Service, a proud member of the Piano Technicians Guild.



Covered in mud
after Hurricane Ian hit
on September 28th.

On the outside, the case will be refinished, lacquer hardware will be polished and damaged and loose veneer will be repaired. Inside, structural repairs will be made and a new soundboard, strings, pins and dampers will be added.

This and other Society hurricane recovery projects are advancing as expected, and we look forward to once again welcoming visitors to Historic Palm Cottage. In the meantime, please check our website regularly for recovery updates and ways you can get involved!

Did you know the Browns were also known to run a martini glass flag up their flagpole to indicate that drinks were being served at their house?

The Society is the Central Voice of Naples History.
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Contact

Naples Historical Society

LOCATION:

Historic Palm Cottage
137 12th Avenue South
Naples, Florida 34102

[DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#)

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 201
Naples, Florida 34106
(239) 261.8164

OUR MISSION:

Naples Historical Society is dedicated to preserving Naples history and heritage for the community and future generations to enjoy.

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Naples Historical Society | 137 12th Avenue South, Naples, FL 34102

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