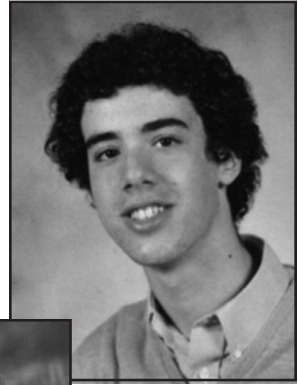


# Mike Wilner

*Class of 1984*

Mike Wilner was inspired to play ragtime piano at a young age after seeing a docudrama on the life of Scott Joplin. This led to a lifelong passion for piano, ragtime and jazz.

Wilner made his performance debut at age 14, playing Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" at the St. Louis Ragtime Festival. He continued his music studies through high school and participated in the award-winning jazz band at University City High.



**Mike Wilner**

*Class of 1984*

As a member of the inaugural class of the New School for Social Research's Jazz and Contemporary Music Program, Wilner entered into a period of intense study.

In 1994, he began to work regularly at Smalls Jazz Club. He got close to the enigmatic creator of Smalls, Mitch Borden, and in 2007, became partner and manager of the club.

For the last 12 years, Wilner has worked to maintain Smalls as a center for jazz in New York – home to veteran players and a hothouse for younger players to cut their teeth. In 2012, Wilner opened a second club, Mezzrow.

Over the years, Michael "Spike" Wilner has toured with the Artie Shaw Big Band, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, and Maynard Ferguson.