

Renaissance Ragtime

Introduction

The captivating melodies and syncopated rhythms of ragtime music have captivated audiences worldwide. With its origins in the African American communities of the late 19th century, ragtime quickly spread throughout the United States and beyond, becoming a defining sound of the early 20th century. Its influence can be heard in the development of jazz, blues, and popular music, leaving an enduring legacy in the world of music.

This comprehensive book delves into the rich history of ragtime, exploring its origins, major figures, contributions to American culture, and lasting impact. From the lively compositions of Scott Joplin to the improvisational genius of Jelly Roll Morton, the book sheds light on the pioneers who shaped this unique

genre. It examines the social and cultural context in which ragtime flourished, highlighting its role in vaudeville, theater, silent films, and the dance craze that swept the nation.

Beyond its historical significance, ragtime's influence continues to resonate in contemporary music. Its infectious rhythms and intricate melodies have inspired musicians across genres, from jazz and blues to rock and pop. The book explores these connections, tracing ragtime's evolution and showcasing modern artists who have embraced its spirit.

Moreover, the book delves into the global impact of ragtime, examining its spread to Europe, Asia, and Latin America. It investigates how ragtime interacted with local musical traditions, leading to the emergence of new genres and styles. The book also explores the challenges facing ragtime in the 21st century, considering how to preserve and promote this cherished genre for future generations.

Whether you're a lifelong fan of ragtime or new to this captivating music, this book offers a comprehensive exploration of its history, influence, and enduring appeal. With its engaging narrative, rich illustrations, and insightful analysis, it's a must-read for anyone interested in American music, cultural history, or the evolution of popular entertainment.

Book Description

Journey into the fascinating world of ragtime music with Renaissance Ragtime, an immersive exploration of its history, influence, and enduring appeal. Embark on a captivating journey through the origins, major figures, and cultural significance of this timeless genre.

Delve into the vibrant world of ragtime's pioneers, from the legendary Scott Joplin to the improvisational genius of Jelly Roll Morton. Discover the social and cultural context that nurtured ragtime's growth, its role in vaudeville, theater, silent films, and the dance craze that swept the nation. Witness how ragtime's infectious rhythms and intricate melodies left an indelible mark on American culture.

Explore ragtime's global impact, tracing its spread to Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Uncover the fascinating interactions between ragtime and local musical traditions, leading to the emergence of new

genres and styles. Delve into the challenges facing ragtime in the 21st century and consider how to preserve and promote this cherished genre for future generations.

Renaissance Ragtime offers a comprehensive exploration of ragtime's rich history and lasting legacy. With its engaging narrative, rich illustrations, and insightful analysis, it's an essential resource for anyone interested in American music, cultural history, or the evolution of popular entertainment. Whether you're a lifelong fan of ragtime or new to this captivating music, Renaissance Ragtime will captivate and inspire you.

Immerse yourself in the world of ragtime and discover its enduring magic. Renaissance Ragtime is an invitation to experience the timeless appeal of this uniquely American genre.

Chapter 1: Ragtime's Revival

The rebirth of ragtime in the 1970s

In the 1970s, ragtime music experienced a remarkable resurgence in popularity, thanks in large part to the efforts of a new generation of musicians, scholars, and enthusiasts. This revival was fueled by a growing interest in American roots music and a renewed appreciation for the unique and infectious sound of ragtime.

One of the key figures in the ragtime revival was pianist and composer Marvin Hamlisch. In 1973, Hamlisch released *The Ragtime Album*, a collection of classic ragtime pieces that became a surprise hit, reaching the top 10 on the Billboard charts. The album's success helped to introduce ragtime to a new audience and inspired other musicians to explore the genre.

Another important factor in the ragtime revival was the publication of several books and articles about the music. In 1970, Edward A. Berlin published *Ragtime: A Musical and Cultural History*, the first comprehensive history of ragtime music. This book helped to raise awareness of ragtime and its importance in American musical history.

The ragtime revival also received a boost from the film industry. In 1973, the movie *The Sting* featured a ragtime soundtrack that helped to popularize the music with a wide audience. The film's success also led to increased interest in ragtime recordings and sheet music.

By the mid-1970s, ragtime had become a popular genre once again. New ragtime clubs and societies were formed, and ragtime festivals began to be held across the country. The revival also led to the emergence of a new generation of ragtime composers and performers, who continue to keep the genre alive and well today.

The ragtime revival of the 1970s was a significant event in the history of American music. It helped to introduce ragtime to a new generation of listeners and inspired a renewed appreciation for this unique and vibrant genre.

Chapter 1: Ragtime's Revival

The role of Scott Joplin in the ragtime revival

Scott Joplin, the "King of Ragtime," played a pivotal role in the revival of ragtime music in the 1970s. After decades of relative obscurity, Joplin's compositions saw a resurgence of interest thanks to the efforts of a group of dedicated musicians, scholars, and enthusiasts.

Joplin's music was rediscovered in the early 1970s by a group of young musicians who were looking for a new and exciting sound. These musicians, including Joshua Rifkin, Gunther Schuller, and William Bolcom, were drawn to Joplin's intricate melodies, syncopated rhythms, and exuberant style. They began to perform and record Joplin's music, introducing it to a new generation of listeners.

At the same time, a number of scholars and enthusiasts were working to preserve and promote Joplin's legacy. They published books, articles, and recordings about

his life and music, and they organized conferences and festivals to celebrate his work. These efforts helped to raise awareness of Joplin's music and to generate interest in ragtime.

In 1973, the release of the soundtrack to the film "The Sting" marked a turning point in the ragtime revival. The soundtrack, which featured Joplin's "The Entertainer" and other ragtime classics, was a huge success, and it helped to introduce ragtime music to a wider audience.

The ragtime revival of the 1970s led to a renewed interest in Joplin's music and in ragtime music in general. Joplin's compositions began to be performed and recorded by a wider range of musicians, and new ragtime compositions were being written. Ragtime music also began to be used in films, television shows, and commercials.

Scott Joplin's role in the ragtime revival cannot be overstated. His music was the catalyst for the revival,

and his legacy continues to inspire musicians and audiences alike.

Chapter 1: Ragtime's Revival

The influence of Jelly Roll Morton and other early ragtime masters

Jelly Roll Morton, a self-proclaimed "inventor of jazz," was one of the most influential figures in the early ragtime scene. Born in New Orleans in 1885, Morton began playing piano at an early age and quickly developed a unique style that blended ragtime with blues and other musical influences.

Morton's compositions, such as "The Red Back Book" and "King Porter Stomp," were known for their complex rhythms and sophisticated harmonies. He was also a gifted improviser, and his live performances were legendary. Morton's music helped to popularize ragtime and paved the way for the development of jazz.

Other early ragtime masters who made significant contributions to the genre include Scott Joplin, James

Scott, and Joseph Lamb. Joplin, known as the "King of Ragtime," composed some of the most famous and enduring ragtime pieces, including "Maple Leaf Rag" and "The Entertainer." Scott was a prolific composer and publisher of ragtime music, and his works helped to spread the genre throughout the United States. Lamb was a highly skilled pianist and composer who was known for his innovative use of syncopation.

These early ragtime masters helped to establish the genre's characteristic sound and style. Their music was enjoyed by people from all walks of life, and it played a major role in the development of American popular music.

Jelly Roll Morton was a controversial figure, but his contributions to ragtime cannot be denied. He was a brilliant musician and composer who helped to shape the sound of early jazz. His music continues to be enjoyed by people around the world, and he remains

one of the most important figures in the history of American music.

The influence of Jelly Roll Morton and other early ragtime masters can still be heard in ragtime music today. Many contemporary ragtime musicians draw inspiration from these early pioneers, and their music continues to be performed and enjoyed by audiences of all ages.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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