

Cakewalkin' on the Keys!

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What is a “cake walk”?

Something

- to do w/ county fairs or bake sales?
- that is easily accomplished?
- that “takes the cake”?

Four web sites with some information on the Cakewalk:

- **Duke University:** <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/sheetmusic/covers.html>
- **The Mississippi Rag:** <http://www.mississippirag.com/> ► links ►
- **Dance History Archives:** <http://www.streetswing.com/histmain/z3cake1.htm>
- **The Cakewalk:** <http://www.basinstreet.com/Programs/TheCakewalkCD>

A definition from The Rag-time Ephemeralist: the cake walk

- was a couple’s dance: Cakewalkers were called “strutters” and often had to balance a pale of water on their heads;
- sometimes involved a competition, hence, difficult and creative, demanding grace and refinement, and resulting in a prize;
- was a parody: dancers would parade, prance, strut—characteristics designed to mimic their masters’ dances.

The Cakewalk: historic and cultural background

- Began in the 1840s as instrumental accompaniment to dances; based on the March, it was performed on fiddles and banjos.
- Was a vigorous and exciting dance, usually held at the end of the harvest season.
- Featured slaves dressed up in “high fashion” who parodied the movements and formal dances of their plantation owners.
- These caricatures would then be copied by white performers and used in the grand finale of minstrel shows.
- By the mid-1890s, the cakewalk was being performed by blacks imitating whites who were imitating blacks who were imitating whites.
- Contests, exhibitions and Jubilees were held; all-black shows featured the dance, both in US and Europe.

The Cakewalk: characteristics of the dance and the music

- Couples would march in a Grande Promenade, dressed in fine clothes, doing a high-stepping strut
- Each couple would take center stage and make up variations of the dance, to the accompaniment of banjo and fiddle players, hand-clapping, etc.
- By the late 1890s, cakewalks were being composed and performed on the piano
- Most cakewalks were in a 2/4 time signature, and were
- Based on the March structure
- The music featured simple syncopations, with one primary syncopated figure
- The cakewalk piano music of the late 1890s frequently had single-note melodies (often pentatonic), over simple harmonies

**Pieces to consider programming along with,
or in preparation for, *Golliwog's Cakewalk***

Cakewalk	Date	Composer	Publication <i>Recording</i>
At a Georgia Camp Meeting	1897	Kerry Mills	Cakewalks, Two-Steps and Trots (David Jasen, ed., Dover) <i>A Ragtime Primer, Vol. 1</i>
Eli Green's Cake Walk	1898	Sadie Koninsky	Cakewalks, Two-Steps and Trots <i>Ragtime Classics, Vol. 1</i>
A Breeze from Blackville	1899	F. T. McGrath	Cakewalks, Two-Steps and Trots
A Ragtime Skedaddle	1899	George Rosey	Cakewalks, Two-Steps and Trots <i>Ragtime: The Way It Was</i>
Alabama Dream	1899	George Barnard	Ragtime Rarities (Trebor Tichenor, ed., Dover)
Big Foot Lou	1899	Joseph Gearen	Ragtime Rarities
Blackville Society Cake Walk	1899	Bernhard Franklin	Cakewalks, Two-Steps and Trots
Cleanin' Up in Georgia	1899	Harry P. Guy	Ragtime Rarities
Doc Brown's Cake Walk	1899	Chas. Johnson	Ragtime Rarities
Dusky Dudes	1899	Jean Schwartz	Cakewalks, Two-Steps and Trots
Something Doing	1903	Joplin/Hayden	Collected Piano Works of SJ
Swipesy Cake Walk	1900	Joplin/Marshall	Collected Piano Works of SJ (The New York Public Library) <i>Family Album: The Tichenor Trio</i>
Ole Virginny Barbeque	1899	J. E. Andino	Ragtime Rediscoveries (Trebor Tichenor, ed., Dover)
Le petite Nègre	1909	Claude Debussy	Debussy: 5 Piano Selections with Ragtime Characteristics (Maurice Hinson, ed., Alfred)
Général Lavine--excentric	1913	Claude Debussy	
Golliwog's Cakewalk	1908	Claude Debussy	

Ragtime Texts

- ♫ Badger, Reid, *A Life in Ragtime: A Biography of James Reese Europe*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995
- ♫ Berlin, Edward A., *King of Ragtime, Scott Joplin and His Era*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994

- ♫ _____ *Ragtime: A Musical and Cultural History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1980; 1984
- ♫ Blesh, Rudi and Harriet, Janus, *They All Played Ragtime*. New York: Oak, 1971, 4th ed.
- ♫ Dickinson, Peter, *Marigold—The Music of Billy Mayerl*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999
- ♫ Harth, Michael (ed.), *Lightning Fingers: Billy Mayerl—The Man and the Music*. London: Paradise Press, 1995
- ♫ Haskins, James, with Kathleen Benson, *Scott Joplin*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1978
- ♫ Hasse, John, ed., *Ragtime: Its History, Composers, and Music*. New York: Schirmer, 1985
- ♫ Jasen, David, and Trebor Jay Tichenor, *Rags and Ragtime*. New York: Seabury, 1979
- ♫ Morath, Max, *The Road to Ragtime*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Publishing Co., 1999
- ♫ Preston, Katherine, *Scott Joplin*. New York: Chelsea House, 1988
- ♫ Schafer, William J., and Johannes Riedel, *The Art of Ragtime*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1973
- ♫ Waldo, Terry, *This is Ragtime*. New York: Da Capo Press, Inc., 1976
- ♫ Whitcomb, Ian, *Irving Berlin and Ragtime America*. London: Century, 1987

Selected Ragtime Recordings (Selections in bold are from today's presentation)		
Artist	Recording	Label
William Albright	<i>Sweet Sixteenths: A Ragtime Concert</i> <i>Scott Joplin and James P. Johnson: back to back</i>	Music Masters MM D60149W MHS 4022
John Arpin	<i>Kings of Ragtime</i>	Pro Arte/Fanfare CDD 487
Mimi Blais	<i>Piano Solo Ragtime</i>	The Piano Roll Center
William Bolcom	<i>Heliotrope Bouquet</i>	Nonesuch
Claude Bolling	<i>Ragtime, Boogie Woogie, Jazz Classics</i>	Philips 822 506-2
Tony Caramia	<i>Zebra Stripes</i> <i>Nimble Fingered Gentleman</i> <i>Brass Knuckles</i>	Stomp Off 1328 Stomp Off 1313 Albany Records
Judy Carmichael	<i>Jazz Piano</i>	Statiras SLP 8074
James Dapogny	<i>Piano Music of Jelly Roll Morton</i>	Smithsonian Collection
Nelville Dickie	<i>The Piano Has It</i>	Stomp Off
Virginia Eskin	<i>Fluffy Ruffle Girls</i> <i>Pickles and Peppers</i>	Northeastern Northeastern NR 225
Scott Kirby and Frank French	<i>Bucktown in the 90s</i>	Stomp Off CD1306
Richard Glazier	<i>The Collected Works of Scott Joplin</i>	Centaur CRC 2403
Dick Hyman	<i>Kitten on the Keys</i> <i>Scott Joplin: The Complete Works</i>	RCA Red Seal RCA Victor
Masanobu Ikemiya	<i>Ragtime Classics</i>	Jazz Mania
Peter Jacobs	<i>Billy Mayerl</i>	Aspen Music
Dave Jasen, ed.	<i>Ragtime: The Way It Was, 1896-1958</i> <i>They All Played the Maple Leaf</i>	Archive Productions 1604-05 Archive Productions 1600
Glenn Jenks	<i>Ragtime-Bigtime (with Dan Grinstead)</i>	Stomp Off CD1292
James P. Johnson	<i>The Symphonic Music of James P. Johnson</i> <i>Carolina Shout: Original Piano Rolls</i>	MHS 513664L MHS 512358M
Scott Joplin	<i>Scott Joplin: 1916</i> <i>Scott Joplin: The Entertainer</i>	Biograph BLP 1006Q MHS 512536W

	<i>Marches, Waltzes & Rags</i>	MHS 513562F
Scott Kirby	<i>The Complete Scott Joplin</i>	Greener Pastures
Morton Gunnar Larsen	<i>Hot Jazz, Pop Jazz, and Ragtime</i> <i>Ophelia Ragtime Orchestra</i> <i>Charleston Rag</i>	Piano Mania CD-104 Piano Mania CD-2117 Piano Mania CD-1016
Billy Mayerl	<i>Billy Mayerl Favourites</i> <i>Marigold</i>	Grosvenor Nostalgia CDGRS 1265 Joy Records 294
Bob Milne	<i>Folk Songs, Barrel House and Ragtime</i> <i>Boogie, Blues and Rags</i> <i>Midnight Express</i>	Bob Milne PO Box 586 Lapeer, MI 48446
Max Morath	<i>numerous recordings</i>	Larsmont, Inc. 100 Glen Road Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07675
Arthur Pryor	<i>On the Boardwalk: The Paragon Ragtime Orch.</i> <i>The Whistler and his Dog</i>	Newport Classic 60039 Newport Classic 60069
David Thomas Roberts	<i>Folk Ragtime</i> <i>15 Original Compositions</i> <i>Early Tangos/New Rags</i>	Piano Mania CD-1317 Piano Mania CD-108 Piano Mania CD-122
Trebor Tichenor	Family Album <i>Tempus Ragorum</i> <i>Those Southern Blues</i>	Ragophile 1002 Stomp Off Piano Mania CD-120
Virginia Tichenor	<i>Virginia's Beauties</i>	CD-VB
Susan Tomes	<i>Loose Elbows (music of Billy Mayerl)</i>	Virgin Classics
Jim Turner	<i>The Dazzler</i> <i>Poet and Peasant</i>	Klavier KD 77016 Sacramento Jazz SJS-32
various	<i>A Ragtime Primer Volume 1</i> <i>Greatest Ragtime of the Century</i>	Piano Mania CD-123 MHS 512427F
Terry Waldo	<i>Wizard of the Keyboard</i>	Stomp Off 1002
Waldo's Gutbucket Syncopators	<i>Masters of the Jazz Age</i>	MHS 512321T
Waldo's Ragtime Orchestra	<i>Ragtime Classics, Volume 1</i> <i>Ragtime Classics, Volume 2</i>	MHS 512230Y MHS 512265F
Fats Waller	<i>Classic Jazz from Rare Piano Rolls</i>	MHS 512515L
Dick Zimmerman	<i>The Roots of Ragtime</i>	Piano Mania

These recordings (and many more!) are available through:

www.jazzbymail.com/

Acknowledgments

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