

Starr-Waterman

American Popular Music

Chapter 2: “After the Ball”: Popular Music of the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Student Study Outline

- I. The Minstrel Show
 - a. **Minstrel show**
 - i. **George Washington Dixon** (180?–1861)
 - ii. **Thomas Dartmouth Rice** (1808–1860)
- II. An Early Pop Songwriter: Stephen Foster
 - a. **Stephen Collins Foster** (1826–1864)
- III. Listening Guide: “Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair”
 - a. Music and Lyrics by Stephen Foster, published 1854
 - b. **Arrangement**
- IV. Dance Music and Brass Bands
 - a. American popular music tied closely to dance and social functions of dancing
 - b. Shift to Couple Dancing
 - i. **Waltz**
 - c. **Brass band concerts**
 - i. **John Philip Sousa** (1854–1932)
 - d. The birth of Tin Pan Alley
 - i. End of the 19th century: music publishing business centered in New York City
 1. **Tin Pan Alley**
 - ii. Popular songs
 1. Printed as sheet music, promoted by song pluggers whose job it was to promote a given company’s product
 - iii. **Vaudeville**
 - iv. **Paul Dresser** (1857–1906)
 - v. **Harry von Tilzer** (1872–1946)
 - vi. “Plantation songs”
- V. Listening Guide: “After the Ball”
 - a. **Charles K. Harris** (1867–1930)
 - b. **Strophes**
- VI. The Ragtime Craze 1896–1918
 - a. **Ragtime**
 - b. “to rag”
 - c. Played by every type of ensemble: dance bands, brass bands, country string bands, symphony orchestras, banjo and mandolin ensembles, solo pianists
 - d. Box 2.1: Scott Joplin and “Maple Leaf Rag”
 - i. **Scott Joplin** (1868–1917): best-known composer of ragtime music
 1. African American composer and pianist
 2. “Maple Leaf Rag” (1898)

VII. The Rise of the Phonograph

- a. Thomas Alva Edison: invented the phonograph in 1877

VIII. Turn of the Century Social Change

- a. Elements of modern music business:
 - i. Fierce competition between music publishing companies
 - ii. Mass promotion of songs, spread across different media
 - iii. Asymmetrical ratio between hit songs and duds
 - iv. Dominance of a limited set of musical forms and lyrical themes

IX. Key Terms

Arrangement	Ragtime	Tin Pan Alley
Brass band concerts	Strophes	Vaudeville
Minstrel show	Syncopation	Waltz

X. Key People

Charles K. Harris	James A. Bland	Scott Joplin
George Washington Dixon	John Phillip Sousa	Stephen Collins Foster
Harry von Tilzer	Paul Dresser	Thomas Dartmouth Rice