

Burleigh's legacy was to provide accompaniment in the modern form which would detract nothing from the emotional appeal and impact of the spirit of the music.



CLARENCE CAMERON WHITE

CLARENCE CAMERON WHITE (1879-1960) was born in Clarksville, Tennessee and received his undergraduate degree from Howard. In addition to a degree in music (violin) from Oberlin in 1901, he studied composition with Coleridge-Taylor in London, and violin with the Russian violinist Zacharewitsch. Prior to going to England, he taught at the (Negro) Washington Conservatory of Music and in Washington's public schools. While in London (1900-11), White was first violinist with the String Players Club.

Upon his return to the States, he went on tours occasionally accompanied by his wife at the piano. He opened a music studio and became the director of the Victoria Concert Orchestra in Boston.

White began composing in earnest after his return to the states, but it was not until 1918 that he began using spirituals as thematic material.

Bandana Sketches, published in 1918, was a compilation of four spirituals for piano and violin. Lovell states that, "the first was a chant, *Nobody Knows de Trouble I've Seen*; the second a lament, *I'm Troubled In Mind*; the third was a slave song, *Many Thousand Gone*; and the fourth, a Negro dance, *Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child*. The first was recorded and performed by Fritz Kreislin, the renowned violinist.

White composed for violin, voice, piano, chorus, band, orchestra, chamber ensemble and organ. He was the recipient of many honors during his lifetime, and achieved his highest recognition after 1920.

ROBERT NATHANIEL DETT (1882-1943) is chiefly recognized (during the period represented in this paper) for his leadership of the Hampton Institute Choir beginning in 1913. While director there, Hampton enjoyed recognition for its high level of performers; and the group appeared at a festival held at the Library of Congress, at Carnegie Hall in New York, and Symphony Hall in Boston.

Dett was born in the slave-founded community of Drummondville, Canada, and received his degree in music from Oberlin. He won the Bowdoin Prize at Harvard for an essay "The Emancipation of Negro Music," and the Francis Boot Prize for music. He received honorary degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Oberlin, and Harvard.

The classical form was not the only genre in which the Black Nationalists worked.

The much maligned minstrel evolved into the more sophisticated form of musical comedy, and the first real departure from minstrelsy was a play with a thin story line that used pretty Black women; the *Octoroon*, presented by a white manager named John Isham in 1895. His success encouraged him to produce, one year later, *Oriental America*. It was the first all Black cast to play on Broadway.

Inevitably, all Black presentations would follow the same course and catapult to fame several Black composers.



R. NATHANIEL DETT

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON (1873-1954) was graduated from Atlanta and Columbia Universities. Although primarily known as a poet, statesman and civil rights leader, he collaborated with his brother and Bob Cole as lyricist for a number of songs. In 1901, the trio were apparently the first Blacks to sign a year contract for monthly stipends against their royalties with a Tin Pan Alley publisher, Joseph W. Stern and Company. They wrote songs for such white stars Lillian Russell, Anna Held and May Irwin, guaranteeing success. *Didn't He Ramble*, one of such songs, is popular with brass bands. The trio also wrote songs that were published in *The Ladies Home Journal* and *Etude*.

SCOTT JOPLIN (1868-1917) was the King. Born in Texarkana, Texas, he had a strong background in music, for each member of his family was an accomplished musician. He taught himself to play the piano with enough expertise that he began to study with a German instructor in the area. There, he gained an ap-

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SYMPOSIUM OF NEGRO EDITORS.

Subjects of Interest to the Colored Race Discussed, and J. Gordon McPherson Again in Evidence.



Microfilm excerpt from *The Salt Lake Tribune*. J. Gordon McPherson once served as secretary of the Western Negro Press Association; the association was founded in 1895.



LOUIS 'SATCHMO' ARMSTRONG

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During his career, Satchmo became a composer, played in more than a dozen movies and recorded more than 1,500 songs. Some, like "Hello, Dolly!" sold more than a million records.

He made his first concert tour abroad in 1932 to England, and it was there that he acquired the nickname Satchelmouth, later shortened to Satchmo.

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