



JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

preciation for and a knowledge of the traditional style of music.

While a teenager, he followed the well-developed route that drifters had forged along "The River." He settled in the St. Louis area in 1895 for a year; organizing and touring with a vocal group, continuing to play rag and compose pieces with traditional notation that did not sell.

In 1896, he settled in Sedalia, Missouri and took advanced courses in music while seriously composing.

At the close of the century ragtime was being acclaimed so that Joplin was able to get his *Original Rag* published in 1899. While he was performing at the Maple Leaf Club, he came to the attention of John Stark, a white music publisher who brought Joplin's piece *Maple Leaf Rag* for fifty dollars plus royalties. Scott was under the illusion that he was on his way. However, the song did not immediately sell, but when it did, hundreds of thousands of copies were purchased.

Joplin then began composing his serious (i.e. traditional) music: *A Guest of Honor*, *A Ragtime Opera*, and *The Ragtime Dance* - the latter a ballad with the cakewalk and slow drag featured. These were completed in 1903.

Scott continued to write music and aid young ragtime composers whenever he could. He often allowed his name to be used along with the name of budding composer's in order to lend some credence to the manuscript. Therefore, many that may bear his name along with another's were not always a true collaboration.

LOUIS CHAUVIN (1883-1908) however, was a true protege of Joplin's and they collaborated on *Helicopter Bouquet - A Slow Drag Two Step* which was well received. Chauvin's deteriorating physical condition, caused by opium and syphilis, created the need for



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Shirley Nanette, star of local jazz clubs, has been a guest performer with the Seattle Symphony and this summer plans to sing with the Chicago Symphony.

Congratulations and success!

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