



The late Lieut. "Jimmie" Europe and his famous "15" Jazz Band snapped on their triumphant return to New York.

Scott to complete the composition that Chauvin began. Of all Joplin's "students," he indicated the most promise, but living the fast life - his early demise eliminated a possible real competitor to Joplin.

Most of Joplin's life, after he settled in New York in 1910, was spent in decline after he published *Treemonisha* in 1911. His obsession with the opera culminated in a one night performance in Harlem. It would not be until decades after his death in 1917 that the work would be given proper treatment. Its survival would be due to the popularity that *The Entertainer* received in a first-run movie, *The Sting*.

Ragtime never did gain the respectability that other forms of "Black" music had; it would basically remain in the urban areas with its coteria of admirers forming a select fraternity well-known to each other. Some claim that it died with Joplin, another claim (more valid, most musicologists think) that it would evolve with one of the nascent schools of jazz. The advent of the pianola with its roles of prefabricated ragtime certainly helped to bring on the demise of "pure" ragtime.

When World War I began, once more Blacks were involved with their music and Jim Europe was called upon to form a group to take to the European Theater. They performed throughout France to tumultuous ovations, yet there was extreme puzzlement as to how their "new sounds" were formed. So convinced were the French that Europe's men used different instruments that the top bandmen in France, the French Garde Republicaine, insisted that Europe's group use French instruments. Of course, Europe's group continued to produce their sound! Jim explained: "With the brass instruments we put in mutes and make a whirling motion with the tongue" something that the Frenchmen had not learned to do.

Europe returned to the States after the war, but died when a crazed assassin knifed him in 1919 over an imagined slight.

Some musicologist claim that jazz is an outgrowth of the blues: and, as such, did not become a distinct form until the twenties. However, Jelly Roll Morton, according to some, is regarded as the first true jazz composer.



Louis Chauvin



Abbie Mitchell

1884-1960

Brilliant dramatic actress and musical star of two continents.

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