

830
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

presents

WILLIAM ALBRIGHT,
PIANO

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1986

8:00 P.M.

CONVOCATION HALL

OLD ARTS BUILDING

RAGTIME AND ALL THAT JAZZ

. . . A concert with commentary tracing the development of American ragtime from its origins, through its classical period, to its destination as stride piano, novelty piano, hot jazz and swing.

The program will feature works by Scott Joplin, Joseph Lamb, Eubie Blake, James P. Johnson, Zez Confrey, Fats Waller, and others.

WILLIAM ALBRIGHT, PIANO

WHAT IS RAGTIME?

Ragtime was the first truly American music. Created in the late 19th century, this style continued in fantastic popularity until about 1915, at which time it turned into and influenced early jazz music from "Dixie" to the citified New York piano style of stride.

Rag is one of the few musical styles to bridge the gap between classical and folk idioms. Its composers were principally black, but the music influenced such whites as Ives, Debussy, Hindemith and Stravinsky--all of whom composed "rags."

The foremost composer, however, was Scott Joplin, a black from Missouri, who wrote dozens of poignantly beautiful "classic" rags. He even composed two operas; one lost, the other only recently produced in a full version.

Joplin's music, along with the music of other rag composers, is characterized by gently swinging syncopations set against a steady left hand. The best rags have all the musical charm and craft of the shorter piano works of the nineteenth century; the continual off-beat accents suggest the complex polyrhythms of African music. Unfortunately, the image of ragtime has been distorted over the years by Tin Pan Alley hacks who succeeded in stereotyping ragtime as a speeded-up cartoon sound-track, or, worse, as a boozy accompaniment to straw hats and pitchers of beer.

Ragtime is just now being rediscovered by the musical world as the serious music it really is. Concerts and recordings are meeting with great success. Ragtime is perhaps most amazing in that it cuts across nearly every class, race and cultural line: everyone is enchanted by it!

.....William Albright 1972

William Albright: Ragtime - all that jazz.

Wednesday, October 1, 1986 at 8:00 p.m. Convocation Hall

SIDE ONE

Mapleleaf rag

Gladiolias

from Treenorisha

Ragtime nightingale

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Mulewalk stomp

Snowy morning blues

SIDE TWO

Carolina shout

Dizzy fingers

Sweet sixteenths

Brass knuckles

Old Adam Chicken scratch

Honky Tonk train blues

Yantze special encore

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