

ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND

1912

Irving Berlin came to New York from his native Russia when he was five years old. It wasn't long before this cantor's son was in business as a newsboy, then a singing waiter, and later a song plugger for the great writer and publisher, Harry Von Tilzer. Soon he became a successful composer and publisher himself. His first hit was in 1907, "Marie From Sunny Italy." Berlin's early songs were light, often comedic and saturated with the ethnic character of New York City. Ragtime music was in vogue, and Berlin capitalized on its popularity by writing "Alexander's Ragtime Band," not ragtime music itself, but a rather slow march which was perfect for those new popular dances, the Turkey Trot and the Grizzly Bear. It was a sensational hit.

Perhaps America's greatest songwriter, he found song material in a simple thought, a humorous incident, a catchy phrase. It might be all of these things, plus a clever quote from "Old Folks At Home" and a bit of bugle call, that makes "Alexander's Ragtime Band" such an enduring classic of popular music.

By IRVING BERLIN
(1888-1989)

VERSE:

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has three measures, and the second system has three measures. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/4. The piano accompaniment is in the left hand, and the vocal line is in the right hand. The lyrics are: "Oh, my hon - ey, Oh, my hon - ey, Bet - ter hur - ry and Oh, oh, Let's go, Bet - ter let's me - an - der, Ain't you go - in', Ain't you go - in' Ain't Oh, ain't".

Oh, my hon - ey, Oh, my hon - ey, Bet - ter hur - ry and
Oh, oh, Let's go, Bet - ter
let's me - an - der, Ain't you go - in', Ain't you go - in'
Ain't Oh, ain't

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7 8 9

to the lead - er man, rag - ged me - ter man? Oh, my hon - ey,

to rag - ged Oh, Let's

10 11 12

Oh, my hon - ey, Let me take you to Al - ex - an - der's

go, Let

13 14 15 16

grand - stand, brass band, Ain't you com - in' a - long?

Ain't

CHORUS:

17 18 19

Come hear, Come hear

8 Come on and hear, Come on and hear

Come hear, Come hear Al - ex - an - der's Rag - time

20 21 22

Right here, right here,

8 Band; Come on and hear, Come on and hear,

Right here, right here, It's the

23 24 25

8 best band in the land. They can play a bu - gle call like you

26 27 28

8 nev - er heard be - fore, Ta ta ta So nat - u - ral that you want to go to war;

Ta ta ta ta ta ta, ta ta ta,

29 30 31

8 That's just the best - est band what am, My

That's just just the the best - est band what am, am,

32 33 34

8 hon - ey lamb. Come on a - long, Come a - long, Let me

Come a - long, Come on a - long, Come a - long, Come a - long,

35 36 37

8 take you by the hand, Up to the man, Up to the

to the man, to the man,

38 to the man
 39
 40
 8 man to the man who's the lead - er of the band. And if you

41
 42
 43
 8 care to hear that Swa - nee Riv - er played in

44
 45
 46
 8 rag - time, Come on and hear, Come on and hear
 Come on and hear, Come on and hear Al - ex -
 Come on and hear,

47
 48
 49
 50
 8 an - der's Rag - time Band. TAG:
 Hear that mu - sic, ain't it grand? It's the
 Rag - time Band.

51
 52
 53
 54
 8 best band in the land, Rag - time Band!
 land!