

Black and White Rag (Botsford)

What does the title refer to?

Ragtime was an Afro-American jazz piano style and the black/white rag could refer to racial inequality/differences during this time. It was written in 1908 by George Botsford and not recorded until 1911. Winifred Attwell famously recorded this in 1952 and it was also used for the TV show Pot Black.

About the composer

George Botsford 1874 to 1949. American composer who lived in New York and worked in Tin Pan Alley.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Botsford

Composer genres:

Botsford wrote many rags for piano, also a miniature opera and songs.

Form/keys:

Introduction bars 1 to 4 - key G major

This work is in 2 main sections

Section 1 bars 4 to 54.

This section is in ternary form:

Part A bars 4 to 21 - G major

Part B bars 22 to 37 - G major

Bars 30 to 33 A minor then back to G major

Return of Part A bars 38 to 54

Section 1 bars 55 to 87

This section is in binary form:

Part A bars 55 to 71 - C major

Part B bars 72 to 87

Bars 72 to 79 C major

Bars 80 to 83 D minor then back to C major

Section 1 Part B and Section 2 Part B is the same musical material but first is in C major and the second is in G major

Notation:

Cut common time - 2 minim beats per bar - simple duple time

f - forte - loud

accent > - marcato - emphasise the note by playing it loud

staccato - short and detached

crescendo - gradually getting louder

mf - mezzo forte - moderately loud

sharp - raise the note semitone

natural - cancel the sharp or flat

1st and 2nd time bar endings

tie - hold the notes for their combined value

slur - play smoothly

8va - play an octave higher than written

Period: Early 20th-century, moving towards jazz

Style: ragtime

Ragtime, generally written for piano, consists of stride bass, straight quavers, moderate tempo, syncopated ties in the middle of the bar, simple diatonic harmonic movement.

