Georgian Triangle Lifelong Learning Institute

Human Migration And Music

Session 6, 2022 – The Great Black Migration and the Harlem Renaissance

Our presentation this week explores the mass migration of more than 6 million black Americans from the southern US to the north as well as the migration from rural to urban from 1900 to 1965. Jim Crow laws were established in the south in 1870 to segregate blacks from white society. Part of leaving the south was to escape the terror, oppression and violence brought on by these anti-negro, segregation laws. As the people moved north their music was heard and liked. Blacks were remaking their identities during this migration but they never lost the sound of where they came from. All the layers of black existence came to the front in their music and when blended with other music became different. Some of these music styles were regional: New Orleans and Dixieland, Chicago Blues, Harlem Jazz and up the delta to Detroit and Rhythm and Blues. We finish the presentation with a jazz concert with John McMurchy and Richard Whiteman playing sax and piano with repertoire by G. Gershwin, Fats Waller, Hogie Carmichael, Duke Ellington, Charlie Mingus, Billy Strayhorn and John MacMurchy.

Suggested viewing/listening

<https://youtu.be/JXVUX9tA5dI> Bernstein explains the style: Ragtime

<https://youtu.be/6wdSlIyhv1I> Wheels of a Dream (*Ragtime*)