



DDC News Notes

The Dinky Drum Company School of Music



WELCOME NAOMI EWELL

Hello my name is Mrs. Naomi Ewell-Brantley. I am a mother of two. I am an Early Childhood Development Major with aspirations of opening a Child Development Center of my own for children to thrive and grow under the supervision of devoted and compassionate teachers. I have always enjoyed children and adore seeing their faces light up when they have learned and captured a new concept.

I was born in Houston but moved to Southern California at 7 months and got my formal education there. This is where my career choice of Child Development chose me while in preschool. The teachers that I have encountered over the years have given me my training of what I will and will not do as an educator. There was never a debate between this and any other profession this was and continues to be the one.

The Dinky Drum Company could not have come into my life at a better time. My position as an Office Assistant has and continues to give me experience as a receptionist so that I will know the qualifications that one needs to better their business. I not only get to work with professionals that are as dedicated in their field as I am in mine, but also get to enjoy the future as it unfolds through the hard work and dedication of the children and adults through their musical endeavors. I have seen seedling potential blossom into full flowers and careers have started in the minds and through the hands of our youth.

A precious part of our education has been ripped from our children in the school system and it takes a special child / parent to seek it else where. Music is much more than tinkering with a few keys, it helps you to read, write, calculate, and analyze. They have not only taken joy but have destroyed a good portion of an intergraded curriculum. We at DDC hope that we can fill it if only for a while.

Naomi Ewell - Brantley

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Dinky Drum Company Spring Break Schedule

The Dinky Drum company will be closed **March 14-18, 2006** for Spring Break. The lessons for this week is a part of the contracted time off and will not be made up. Please see the office staff if you have questions.

Mr. Dinkins



DDC and *Heartbeat of America*

Dinky Drum Company has been selected as a featured company on *Heartbeat of America's* "Keeping America Strong" series. *Heartbeat of America*, is a national television program created to help emerging companies grow despite current economic setbacks. Mega star **William Shatner**, and famous network news anchors present a company's story on national television. Businesses that appear on the program, use the exposure to grow their business with ultimate credibility. More importantly after the broadcast, shorter edited versions of the show are produced for the selected companies in formats including videos, and CD Rom business cards. These marketing tools are then used to target prospects that buy the companies product or service.

Stay tuned for the show airing date and time!!!



American Composer - Scott Joplin (1868-1917) (SOURCE BELLEROPHON)

The Blackface minstrel shows had always gained much of their appeal from the banjo music they featured. Though it was the only instrument invented in the young United States, the banjo was based on the West African models and lent itself easily to the irregular, syncopated rhythms of African music.

In the difficult years after the Civil War, the ex-slaves and their children frequently found their chief solace in their own music. For the poorer groups, this would usually consist of songs with African-style melodies and harmonies, with perhaps a simple banjo or guitar accompaniment. The more prosperous and sophisticated blacks, who usually lived in the Southern towns, aspired to the European forms that still dominated American culture, going all out to master European marches and dances on pianos and wind instruments. But even there African rhythms cropped up and a strong note of Mockery crept up into their imitations: the strutting "catwalks" which first became popular among Florida blacks in the 1870's seemed to ridicule the pompous stiffness of upper-class whites. This ambivalent mixture of European melodic forms and African rhythms soon produced the completely original styles of ragtime and jazz, as the purely African singing gave rise to gospel music and the blues.

Scott Joplin spent the first half of his life sorting through all of these musical forms, the second half crystallizing on of them better than anyone else. The son of a railroad laborer, he grew up in Texarkana, Texas, where musical opportunities were few. His was a musical family and he gained a basic mastery of the piano before leaving home at fourteen when his father insisted that he follow a more reliable career. After making his way as pianist in disreputable establishments up and down the Mississippi, he settled west of St. Louis and published his first compositions.

A few sentimental songs, marches and waltzes followed before Joplin struck gold in 1898 with the "Maple Leaf Rag," a piano piece which made both him and ragtime famous. In it he formalized the music he had learned during his apprenticeship, in which banjo-style syncopation overlay the repetitive structure of European marches and dances to produce a melody both lively and contemplative. Pieces like "Elite Syncopations," "The Entertainer," "The Cascades" and "Gladiolus Rag" confirmed him as the most accomplished composer in an increasingly popular field.

By 1910 ragtime had become a national craze, and white composers like Irving Berlin scored huge hits with very loose versions of the original style. Joplin never took to these innovations. While he had long wanted to extend ragtime into opera, ballet and other "respectable" forms, he always insisted on sticking to the original rhythms and structure. His opera *Treemonisha*, which he wrote as his health was beginning to fail, never got beyond one rehearsal. In the years after his death, jazz replaced ragtime as the reigning musical fad. It was only in the late 1960s that large audiences rediscovered the limpid expressiveness of his music.



Recital 2006 Preparation

Can you all believe that this is March of 2006 and we have begun our *Annual Recital* preparations. The recital is scheduled for **June 5, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.** at the Third Ward Multi-purpose Center on Ennis. Solo's and Ensembles are being assigned in your private lesson's at this time. **Duet and ensemble rehearsals will begin in April.**

More information will be provided as we approach the recital date. Remember practice, practice, practice.

DDC STUDENT ACCOMISHMENTS

Lauren Hollins - Earned a placement in the All City Band for Middle School in the Houston Independent School District. The concert was held at Westside High School on January 28, 2006.

Congratulations!!!!

Lauren

Samuel Dinkins, IV - Earned a placement in the All City Band for Middle School in the Houston Independent School District. The concert was held at Westside High School on January 28, 2006.

Keep up the good work!!!!

Samuel

Jalen Baker - Earned a placement in the All City Band for Elementary in the Houston Independent School District. The concert was held at Westside High School on January 28, 2006.

Way to Go!

Jalen



RAGTIME MUSIC

Ragtime sprung up as a music form towards the end of the 19th century, and this was one of a number of forms which had their roots in this time period. This increasing diversity resulted from the fusion of African and European musical ideas in the Southern States of the U.S. It wasn't so much a deliberate crafting by music scholars, but more the result of experimentation and informal learning by example, often by self-taught musicians who played in streets and bars. This informal folk music became formalized into Ragtime by composers like Harvey and Joplin who played the music to large audiences and published it so that its popularity was able to spread.

Ragtime was played usually on a solo piano, an instrument which most honkytonk bars and saloons possessed. The word Ragtime means "syncopated time", the main characteristics of these pieces being the Right Hand playing a syncopated tune while the Left Hand plays simple regular line alternating bass notes and simple chords, often called a "two-step" and not unlike the "Alberti Bass" used in classical music by the likes of Mozart and Hayden. Despite the fact that the Right Hand syncopations were far in excess of anything produced in classical music, the structure of these pieces was nevertheless quite strict in a classical sense. They consisted of a number of contrasting 16 bar sections (usually 2/4 time) with repetitions and returns to previous sections or a "Da Capo" (return to the beginning). This structure is very similar to various march or dance forms or the classical Rondo. Towards the end of each section or phrase there might be rising bass bars, changing harmonies or accidentals to give color and emphasis to the cadences (phrase endings).

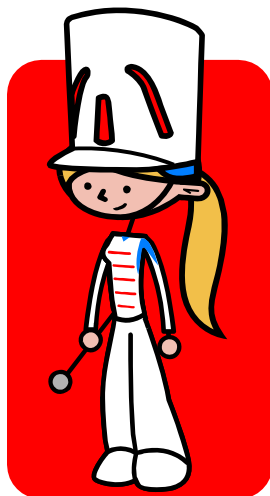
Scott Joplin, and all around entertainer, did much to popularize ragtime allowing it to spread beyond its humble beginnings. His publication of Maple Leaf Rag had the equivalent of a top ten hit. It's easy to see why this style became popular. The tunes and rhythm are "catchy" and foot-tapping, the syncopations lively and humor (often poking fun at serious or pretentious music), and anyone with a piano could participate. Joplin continued to lead this new art form producing a large number of piano rags, cakewalks and other similar forms, and even demonstrating the ragtime could be adapted with different time signatures including the 3/4 Waltz time. Although many piano rags are often played fast, Joplin frequently indicated on many of his rags that they should be played quite slow, and the piano rolls which he created and left for posterity demonstrated the desired slow tempo.

The Dinky Drum Company

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**"Providing Quality
Musical Services"
Since 1989**



"Light tomorrow with today."

Dinky Drum Company planned Field Trips

The Dinky Drum Company is planning two field trips for this year. First to hear the Houston Symphony on May 7, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m. *"The Planets with Film"* features NASA film footage from the Voyager and Hubble expeditions. The magnificent music of Holst's *The Planets* will transport you to other worlds. Houston Symphony Principal Double Bass, Tim Pitts performs. Also, performing is the Women of the Houston Symphony Chorus.

The second field trip is to San Antonio on **July 22, 2006** for the regional championship competition of Drum Corp International. Look for more information as the dates approach.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning



DDC UP AND COMING PERFORMANCES AND

-Johnny Lee Lane, the Director of Education for REMO, Inc., is conducting a percussion workshop here in Houston on April 4, 2006. Location and time to be determined.

-DDC staff to perform for the HEB Children's Festival on April 2, 2006 @ 3:00 p.m. on the Time Warner Stage.

-DDC Educational Performance "History of Jazz" show on April 28, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m. - Stevenson Middle School.

Six of the Twelve Important Skills your child learns by studying music

1. Self Confidence. Being able to go from learning notes and rhythms to producing meaningful music instills in your child a sense of accomplishment and self confidence.
2. Coordination. Hand, eye, body posture, thought, and breath control, all working together are the ingredients for playing a musical instrument. These coordination skills transfer to many other aspects of life.
3. Teamwork. Every child wants to be part of a group. Music allows everyone to belong by being an important part of the team.
4. Comprehension. Learning to perceive and derive meaning from musical sounds, sharpens your child's ability to comprehend abstractions.
5. Problem Solving. Learning the basics of musical language and interpreting a work through performance teaches your child the ability to understand a problem and reach an appropriate solution.
6. Discipline. By learning all of the basics of music and applying them correctly to a work, take perception and discipline.

Look for the next six in the second quarter NewsNotes.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE SOME \$\$\$\$. . .

Did you know that you could save \$25.00? Yes, it's true! When you refer a new student to the Dinky Drum Company School of Music, and they sign up for music lesson; you will earn a "Student Discount." The student discount is \$25.00 off one months' tuition.

Currently, we have open time slots for:

- Acoustic & Bass Guitar
- Drums/Percussion
- Piano & Voice
- Sax , Flute & Clarinet
- Trumpet/Trombone