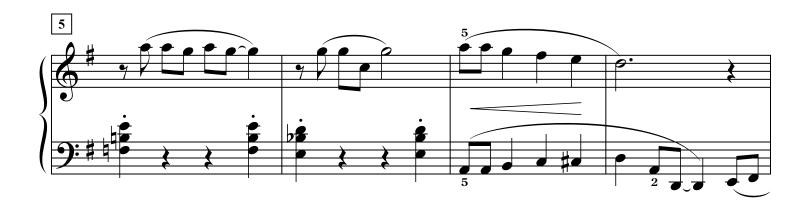
Empress of the Blues

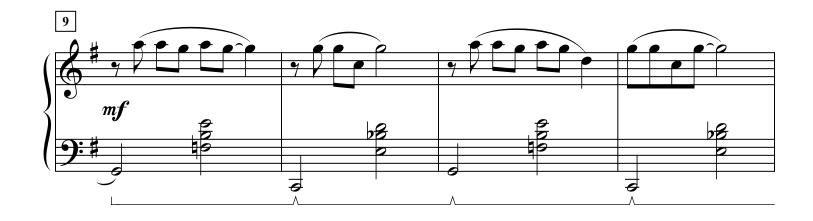
In an era when women and African-Americans had very few rights, Bessie Smith sang her way to success as the magnificent "Empress of the Blues."



Wynn-Anne Rossi







Jelly Roll Stomp

"Jelly Roll" Morton was a pianist who influenced the development of early jazz in the 1920s. He introduced the eight-bar "stomp" chord progression in his famous composition "King Porter Stomp."









Hot Five Louie

Trumpeter Louis Armstrong began his brilliant career with a band called the "Hot Fives." Perhaps this honored not only the five performers, but also the "hot" dominant V7 chords in jazz.





