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Frontispiece: Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake (at the piano), c. 1921.

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# C O N T E N T S

ix	FOREWORD
xi	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
	THE SURPRISING STORY OF <i>SHUFFLE ALONG</i>
xv	Why <i>Shuffle Along</i> Matters
xv	Genesis of the Show
xxvi	The <i>Shuffle Along</i> Orchestra
xxxiii	Broadway Opening and Reception
xxxv	Touring and Royalties
xxxviii	<i>Shuffle Along</i> and the New Negro
xli	Blake and the Music for <i>Shuffle Along</i>
xliv	Recordings and Performance Practice
xlvi	<i>Shuffle Along</i> and American Dance History
li	The Book of <i>Shuffle Along</i> and Its Theatrical Influence
	SYNOPSIS AND ANALYSIS OF <i>SHUFFLE ALONG</i>
lix	Synopsis
lxiii	The Music of the Show: Number by Number
lxxxviii	Performance Recommendations
xc	PLATES
	SHUFFLE ALONG
	ACT ONE
5	No. 1. Overture (Orchestra)
63	No. 2. Opening Chorus: "Election Day" (Chorus)
99	No. 2a. Song, Dance, and Exit of Chorus (Chorus)
106	No. 3. "I'm Just Simply Full of Jazz" (Miss Ruth Little, Chorus)
133	No. 4. "Love Will Find a Way" (Jessie Williams, Harry Walton)
153	No. 5. "Bandana Days" (Uncle Ned, Tom Sharper)
172	No. 6. "Uncle Tom and Old Black Joe" (Uncle Tom, Old Black Joe)

191	No. 7. "In Honeysuckle Time" (Tom Sharper)
212	No. 8. "Gypsy Blues" (Jessie Williams, Miss Ruth Little, Harry Walton)
231	No. 9. Finale of Act One (Entire Company)
	 ACT TWO
258	No. 10. "Shuffle Along" (Traffic Officer, Chorus)
276	No. 11. "I'm Just Wild About Harry" (Jessie Williams, Chorus)
289	No. 12. "Sing Me to Sleep, Dear Mammy" (Harry Walton)
300	No. 13. "Everything Reminds Me of You" (Harry Walton, Jessie Williams)
314	No. 14. Selections by the Four Harmony Kings
315	No. 15. "If You've Never Been Vamped by a Brown Skin, You've Never Been Vamped at All" (Sam Peck)
328	No. 16. "Oriental Blues" (Tom Sharper, Chorus)
350	No. 17. "I'm Craving for That Kind of Love" (Miss Ruth Little)
367	No. 18. Entrance of Sissle and Blake (Orchestra)
375	No. 19. A Few Minutes with Sissle and Blake
376	No. 20. "Baltimore Buzz" (Entire Company)
	 APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL MUSICAL NUMBERS
391	No. 14a. "Goodnight, Angeline" (The Four Harmony Kings)
399	No. 14b. "When the Saints Come Marching In" (The Four Harmony Kings)
409	No. 16a. "Serenade Blues" (Tom Sharper or Miss Ruth Little)
435	No. 17a. "Daddy, Won't You Please Come Home?" (Miss Ruth Little)
447	No. 19a. "Vision Girl" (Tom Sharper)
	 CRITICAL REPORT
473	The Sources
479	Editorial Methods
480	Critical Commentary
521	 TABLE OF SELECTED PROGRAMS AND PERFORMERS
527	 BIBLIOGRAPHY

SHUFFLE ALONG

LYRICS AND MUSIC BY NOBLE SISSLE AND  
EUBIE BLAKE

BOOK BY FLOURNOY MILLER AND AUBREY LYLES

## CAST OF CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

CHORUS of CITIZENS

MRS. SAM PECK, suffragette

ONIONS, grocery clerk<sup>1</sup>

MR. JIM WILLIAMS, proprietor of Jimtown Hotel

JESSIE WILLIAMS, his daughter

MISS RUTH LITTLE, her chum<sup>2</sup>

HARRY WALTON, candidate for mayor

TOM SHARPER, political boss

UNCLE NED

STEVE JENKINS, candidate for mayor

SAM PECK, another candidate for mayor

RUFUS LOOSE, war relic<sup>3</sup>

WAITER

UNCLE TOM

OLD BLACK JOE

TWO CUSTOMERS, a gentleman and a lady

MR. JACK PENROSE, detective<sup>4</sup>

TRAFFIC OFFICER

GIRL

TRAINER

BOARD OF ALDERMEN<sup>5</sup>

STRUTT, Jimtown swell<sup>6</sup>

STENOGRAPHERS

SECRETARY TO MAYOR

OFFICE BOY<sup>7</sup>

MAYOR'S DOORMAN

FOUR HARMONY KINGS

DANCING & SINGING CHORUS, referred to as Jazz Jasmines, Happy Honeysuckles, and Syncopating Sunflowers<sup>8</sup>

---

1. **Script** cast of characters only has "Grocery Clerk."

2. **Script** cast of characters lacks "Miss," but uses "Miss" before her name for No. 3 "I'm Just Simply Full of Jazz" and No. 17 "I'm Craving for That Kind of Love."

3. **Script** later calls this character "Civil War Veteran," which this edition regularizes to RUFUS LOOSE.

4. **Script** later occasionally calls this character "Detective," which this edition regularizes to PENROSE.

5. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN never enter and have no lines in **Script**, but in the earliest programs the performers are listed as "Roger Matthews and the Board of Aldermen," a male quartet, who assist singing "Sing Me to Sleep, Dear Mammy"; see Critical Report.

6. STRUTT never enters and has no lines in **Script**, but nevertheless is credited in all extant programs.

7. **Script** lists "The Porter," who never enters but is credited in Chicago programs to Tom [Tommy] Woods, a dancer; this character is evidently identical to the OFFICE BOY, which is not in the **Script** cast of characters, but does enter and speak.

8. The earliest New York programs also list the Majestic Magnolias, consisting of five women.

## INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA

Flute (Fl.) with Piccolo (Picc.) ad lib.

Oboe (Ob.)

Clarinet (Cl.) in B $\flat$

Cornet (Crt.) 1-2 in B $\flat$

Trombone (Trb.)

Timpani

Bells

Drum Set (Dr.):

Triangle (Tri.), Cymbals (Cym.), Wood Block (W.B.), Snare Drum (S.D.),

Tom Tom (T.T.), Indian Drums (Ind. Dr.), Bass Drum (B.D.)

Piano (Pno.)

Violin (Vn.) 1

Violin (Vn.) 2

Viola (Va.)

Violoncello (Vc.)

Contrabass (Cb.)

## SCENE

Time: Election Day

Place: Jimtown in Dixieland<sup>9</sup>

Act One, Scene 1	Exterior of Jimtown Hotel
Act One, Scene 2	Possum Lane
Act One, Scene 3	Jenkins' and Peck's Grocery Store
Act Two, Scene 1	Calico Corners
Act Two, Scene 2	Possum Lane
Act Two, Scene 3	The Mayor's Office
Act Two, Scene 4	Spencer's Lane
Act Two, Scene 5	Ballroom of Jimtown Hotel

---

9. Although several actual small towns in America are named Jimtown, none exist in "Dixieland," meaning the Southern United States, especially those states that composed the Confederate States of America. Jimtown was, however, a name frequently invoked in Miller & Lyles's comedy routines including their famous "Jimtown Fisticuffs." It is also attached to at least one song: "Charlie Davis's familiar 'Jimtown Blues.'" (Brooks, *Lost Sounds*, 350) Both usages reference Jimtown as not only Southern but also associated with African Americans: compare with "Jim Crow"—many usages—or "Jim Crack Corn," a minstrel song dating back to the 1840s. See *inter alia* Robert C. Toll, *Blacking Up: The Minstrel Show in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1974), 49.

# Act One

## NO. 1. OVERTURE

(Orchestra)

**Allegro con spirito**

Flute *ff*

Oboe *ff*

Clarinet in B $\flat$  *ff*

Cornet 1 in B $\flat$  [*ff*]

Cornet 2 in B $\flat$  [*ff*]

Trombone [*ff*]

Bells

Drum Set  
S.D. [*ff*]  
B.D.

Piano *ff*

Violin 1 **Allegro con spirito** *ff* div. [unis.]

Violin 2 *ff*

Viola *ff*

Violoncello *ff*

Contrabass *ff*

Scene 1  
Exterior of Jimtown Hotel

NO. 2. OPENING CHORUS  
ELECTION DAY

(Chorus)

**Allegro moderato con spirito**

(Piccolo ad lib.)

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Flute:** Treble clef, 2/4 time, *ff*. Includes a piccolo part marked "(Piccolo ad lib.)".
- Oboe:** Treble clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Clarinet in B $\flat$ :** Treble clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Cornet 1 in B $\flat$ :** Treble clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Cornet 2 in B $\flat$ :** Treble clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Trombone:** Bass clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Drum Set:** Percussion clef, 2/4 time, *ff*. Includes parts for S.D. (Snare Drum) and B.D. (Bass Drum).
- Piano:** Grand staff (treble and bass clefs), 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Violin 1:** Treble clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Violin 2:** Treble clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Viola:** Alto clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Violoncello:** Bass clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.
- Contrabass:** Bass clef, 2/4 time, *ff*.

The score consists of 10 measures. The key signature is two flats (B $\flat$  and E $\flat$ ). The tempo and mood are "Allegro moderato con spirito". The dynamic marking is consistently fortissimo (*ff*) throughout. The flute part includes a piccolo section marked "(Piccolo ad lib.)". The drum set part includes parts for snare drum (S.D.) and bass drum (B.D.).



# Act Two

## Scene 1\* Calico Corners

([ENTIRE COMPANY is onstage.] TRAFFIC OFFICER in center of stage working a semaphore. RUFUS LOOSE† enters left with GIRL.)

RUFUS LOOSE: No use talking—  
GIRL: Why didn't you start dancing with me?  
RUFUS LOOSE: Because I told you to shimmy, you turned around and did the cootie. (exit right)

UNCLE NED (Enters [stage] right. Walks around semaphore.): Good morning, officer. When did you get out of jail? Say look here. How much you gets a week for dis job? Dat's what I would like to know.  
OFFICER (impatiently): Shuffle Along.  
(UNCLE NED exits right.)

### N O . I O S H U F F L E A L O N G

(Traffic Officer, Chorus)

**Allegro moderato**

The musical score is for the piece "Shuffle Along" and is arranged for a full orchestra. It begins with a tempo marking of "Allegro moderato" and a dynamic marking of "f". The score is in 2/4 time. The instruments listed are Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Cornet 1, 2 in Bb, Trombone, Drum Set (with S.D. and B.D. parts), Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score consists of 16 measures. The Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet parts have a melodic line with some grace notes. The strings play a rhythmic accompaniment. The Drum Set part features a steady pattern of snare and bass drum hits.

\*Neither **Script**, **FS**, nor programs indicate music for an Entr'acte, however at an unknown date Blake added "Entr'acte" in pencil to **MS-P(1)** for "Love Will Find a Way." See Critical Report for No. 4.

†**Script** has character "Civil War Veteran" here and character "War Relic" speaking the two lines below; see cast of characters.

6

Fl. *fz* [VAMP] [*p*] 3

Ob. *fz*

Cl. in B $\flat$  *fz* [*p*] *p*

Crt. 1 in B $\flat$  *fz*

Crt. 2 in B $\flat$  *fz*

Trb. *fz*

Dr. *fz*

Pno. *fz* [*p*] *p*

OFF. Ev- 'ry- one in

Vn. 1 *fz* [*p*] *p*

Vn. 2 *fz* [*p*] *p*

Va. *fz* [*p*] *p*

Vc. *fz* [*p*] *p*

Cb. *fz* [*p*] *p*

12

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Crt. 1 in Bb

Crt. 2 in Bb

Trb.

Dr.

Pno.

OFF.

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

town is al- ways sing- ing this song,— Shuf- fle a- long,—