

Music & Lyrics

Charleston

"The Charleston" is a jazz composition that was written to accompany the Charleston dance. It was composed in 1923, with lyrics (that were rarely sung) by Cecil Mack and music by James P. Johnson.



Caroline, Caroline, at last they've got you on the map.
With a new tune, a funny blue tune, with a peculiar snap!
You many not be able to buck and wing, fox-trot, two-step, or even swing,
If you ain't got religion in your feet, you can do this prance and do it neat.
Charleston! Charleston! Made in Carolina.
Some dance, some prance, I'll say, there's nothing finer
Than the Charleston, Charleston. Lord, how you can shuffle.
Ev'ry step you do leads to something new, man, I'm telling you it's a lapazoo.
Buck dance, wing dance, will be a back number,
But the Charleston, the new Charleston, that dance is surely a comer.
Sometime you'll dance it one time, the dance called the Charleston,
Made in South Caroline.
Charleston! Charleston! Made in Carolina.
Some dance, some prance, I'll say, there's nothing finer
Than the Charleston, Charleston. Lord, how you can shuffle.
Ev'ry step you do leads to something new, man, I'm telling you it's a lapazoo.
Buck dance, wing dance, will be a back number,
But the Charleston, the new Charleston, that dance is surely a comer.
Sometime you'll dance it one time, the dance called the Charleston,
Made in South Caroline!

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

also sung as

Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime?

“Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?” was one of the best-known American songs of the Great Depression. Written in 1931 by lyricist E. Y. “Yip” Harburg and composer Jay Gorney.

They used to tell me I was building a dream
And so I followed the mob
When there was earth to plow or guns to bear
I was always there right on the job

They used to tell me I was building a dream
With peace and glory ahead
Why should I be standing in line
Just waiting for bread

Once I built a railroad, I made it run
Made it race against time
Once I built a railroad, now it's done
Brother, can you spare a dime

Once I built a tower up to the sun
Brick and rivet and lime
Once I built a tower, now it's done
Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits, gee we looked swell
Full of that Yankee-Doodly-dum
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell
And I was the kid with the drum

Say, don't you remember, they called me "Al"
It was "Al" all the time
Why don't you remember, I'm your pal
Say buddy, can you spare a dime

Once in khaki suits, ah gee we looked swell
Full of that Yankee-Doodly-dum
Half a million boots went slogging through Hell
And I was the kid with the drum

Oh, say, don't you remember, they called me "Al"
It was "Al" all the time
Say, don't you remember, I'm your pal
Buddy, can you spare a dime