

Jambalaya Rag

No trip to Louisiana would be complete without feasting on Jambalaya, the most celebrated food on Louisiana menus. This traditional and scrumptious dish is created by cooking rice with any combination of meat, poultry, seafood or game, along with peppers and other Creole seasonings. The word "jambalaya" comes from the French word for ham, "jambon," which was a prime ingredient when Jambalayas were first made in the 1700s. Gonzales, Louisiana, is called the "Jambalaya capital of the world" and hosts a Jambalaya Festival each spring.

Martha Mier

Moderately, with a steady beat

The musical score for "Jambalaya Rag" is written for piano in 4/4 time, featuring a steady beat. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each containing two staves (treble and bass clef). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. Dynamics include piano (*p*), mezzo-forte (*mf*), and mezzo-piano (*mp*). The piece begins with a piano introduction, followed by a series of rhythmic patterns in the bass line and melodic lines in the treble. The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, and 13, indicating the start of new phrases.

French Quarter Blues

A visit to the French Quarter of New Orleans is a visit to the oldest part of the city that was ruled by the French for many years. The French Quarter boasts charming architecture, unique cultures, and most of all, the style of music known as the Blues. Blues music, an African-American creation, speaks to people of all ethnic backgrounds and is a famous ingredient of the French Quarter culture.

Martha Mier

Slowly, with swing ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}^{\text{tr}} \text{♩}$)

mp

3

a tempo

rit. *mf*

3

6

mp

9

rit. *mf* *a tempo*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piano accompaniment of a blues piece. It is written in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked 'Slowly, with swing' and 'mp'. It features a melodic line in the right hand with triplets and slurs, and a bass line in the left hand with chords and single notes. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked 'a tempo' and 'mf'. It includes a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking over measures 6-7. The third system (measures 9-12) is marked 'mp'. The fourth system (measures 13-16) is marked 'rit.', 'mf', and 'a tempo'. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and fingering numbers (1-5). Measure numbers 3, 6, and 9 are indicated in boxes at the start of their respective systems.

Mardi Gras Magic

Mardi Gras in New Orleans is often called the “greatest free show on Earth.” As Carnival Season approaches, the residents decorate the city with streamers and flags in the traditional Mardi Gras colors of green, gold and purple. A sense of magic descends upon the city as the celebration begins with lavish balls and masked spectacles. There are numerous spectacular and unique parades that feature a reigning King or Queen, colorful floats, elaborate costumes, marching bands and dancing in the streets. Although New Orleans holds the most famous Mardi Gras celebration, many other Louisiana cities host their own events as well, including Lafayette, which has one of the largest.

Fast, with excitement

Martha Mier

Musical score for the first system, featuring piano introduction with dynamics *ff* and *mf*, and fingering numbers (RH 5, 3, 1; LH 3).

4

Musical score for the second system, starting at measure 4, featuring dynamics *ff* and *f*, and fingering numbers (5, 1, 3, 2, 5).

7

Musical score for the third system, starting at measure 7, featuring dynamics *ff* and *f*, and fingering numbers (5, 2, 4, 1, 3).

10

Musical score for the fourth system, starting at measure 10, featuring dynamics *ff* and *f*, and fingering numbers (3, 4, 1, 4, 5, 3, 4, 2, 1).