

Jazzin' Americana

FOR TWO



5 Late Elementary to Early Intermediate Piano Duets That Celebrate American Jazz

Wynn-Anne Rossi

Welcome to *Jazzin' Americana for Two*. This unique series is a journey through the jazz genre, honoring the history, diverse styles, and fabulous musicians who made this music great. While delving into appealing jazz styles, the performers will become familiar with the names of famous musicians like Mary Lou Williams, Charlie Parker, and Duke Ellington. From blues and bebop to boogie and rock, American jazz has made its profound mark on the music of the world.

Each duet is enhanced by interesting facts to awaken curiosity and broaden music education. Please encourage additional jazz listening and research as students navigate

through the different styles. Rhythm workshops are included to help students count, then “feel” tricky jazz rhythms.

Please note that improvisation is not the focus of this series. Though improvisation is a key element in jazz, these books are designed as an introduction to the sounds of jazz. However, teachers and students may find it energizing to use a certain jazz style, left-hand pattern, or chord sequence as a springboard for free experimentation.

Enjoy this heartfelt, historic journey through *Jazzin' Americana for Two*!

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Pioneer Rag

Benjamin Robertson "Ben" Harney (1872–1938) was a pioneer of ragtime music. His "You've Been a Good Old Wagon but You Done Broke Down," written in 1895, is one of the earliest ragtime compositions on record.

Rhythm Workshop

Tap rhythm 3x daily.

mm. 9–10

Secondo

Wynn-Anne Rossi

Playfully, steady (♩ = 120)

Rhythm Workshop

Tap rhythm 3x daily.

mm. 7-8

Handwritten notation for a rhythm workshop. The right hand (RH) part is written on a single staff in 4/4 time, showing a sequence of eighth notes and quarter notes. The left hand (LH) part is indicated by a dashed line below the staff, suggesting a simple accompaniment pattern.

Pioneer Rag

Benjamin Robertson "Ben" Harney (1872-1938) was a pioneer of ragtime music. His "You've Been a Good Old Wagon but You Done Broke Down," written in 1895, is one of the earliest ragtime compositions on record.

Primo

Wynn-Anne Rossi

Playfully, steady (♩ = 120)

Musical notation for the first four measures of the piece. It is in 4/4 time. The right hand has a melodic line with some grace notes, and the left hand provides a bass line. The dynamic marking is *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Musical notation for measures 5 through 8. Measure 5 is marked with a box containing the number 5. The right hand features a more active melodic line with slurs and fingerings (1, 2, 4). The dynamic marking is *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Musical notation for measures 9 through 12. Measure 9 is marked with a box containing the number 9. The piece changes to 8/4 time at the end of measure 11 and back to 4/4 time in measure 12. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte).