

Contents

Foreword

Jon Michael Spencer vii

Introduction

Rebecca T. Cureau ix

Dedication

Willis Laurence James xv

Preface

Willis Laurence James xvii

Chapter 1. Prelude

Origins and modifications—Unique situations—Rhythm as a force—Tone as a force—Negro music in America—Melody and harmony—Dialect and its relations to creativity—Music of Jews, Magyars, Serbs, Bulgarians. i

Chapter 2. Cries in Speech and Song

Primitive nature of cry—Articulate and inarticulate cries—Seven basic cries—Calls developed into song cries. 16

Chapter 3. Dances, Blues, and Ballads

Use of all songs for dancing—Imported dances—Dances created in America—Development of dance music—Dance chart—Development and nature of the blues—Nature of ballads. 35

Chapter 4. The Rise of the Work Songs

Age of work songs—Spirit of work songs—Scarcity of work songs—Texts of work songs. 66

Chapter 5. Imagery and Nature of the Work Song

Legends—Songs from legends—Work camps—Mines—Longshore and river songs—Form and style. 75

Chapter 6. Characteristics

Types of Negro songs—Texts and rhythms found in various song types—Modes—Manner of rendition—Suggestions on singing. 104

Chapter 7. "De Stars in de Elements"

Where songs originate—Singing in Alabama mining region—Training sessions—Historical period. 147

Chapter 8. Wrong Roads

Varying approaches—Shouts—Singing in churches—The enlightened Negro—Singing in Negro schools—Opinions of general nature—False presentations. 162

Chapter 9. The Influence of "Shape-Note" Singing

Disadvantages of shape-notes—Conventions—Shape-note singers versus non-shape-note singers—Decline of white man's singing. 175

Chapter 10. Has the Negro Borrowed His Songs?

The false assumption—"White spirituals"—Modes of singing—Peculiar Negro forms—Comparisons used by George Pullen Jackson—Summarization of Negro and white influences. 182

Chapter 11. The Wheel in a Wheel

Jazz influences—Concert singing of paraphrases—The Negro's position. 195

Chapter 12. The Folk Festival

The history—Ham and Egg Show—Secular phase—Religious phase—Prizes and prizewinners—The counterbalance. 203

Chapter 13. Urban-Rural Cycle

Negro singing in cities—Gospel quartets—Spiritual choirs—Solo versions—Dett's influence—Most-used Negro songs. 216

Chapter 14. *The Great Fantasia*

An epitome of contributors of both races to the progress of Negro music, whether writers, singers, composers, or other personalities. 230

Appendix of Negro Songs 243

Bibliography 339

Index 341

Music Index 347