

# Darktown Strutter's Ball

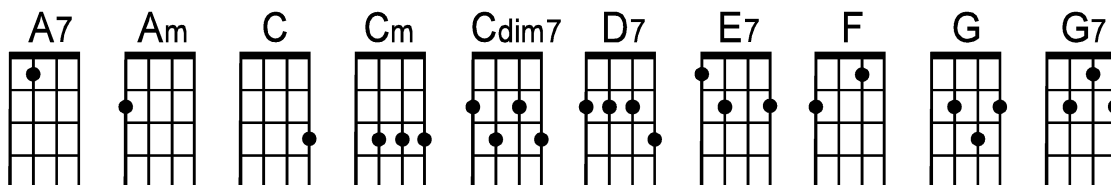
Shelton Brooks



C G7 C G7  
I've got some good news Honey an invitation to the Darktown Ball  
G G// E7// Am// D7// G// G7//  
It's a very swell affair, all the high brows will be there,  
C G7  
I'll wear my high silk hat, and a frocktail coat,  
E7 Am  
You wear your Paris gown. and your new silk shawl,  
G G// E7// Am// D7// G// G7//  
There ain't no doubt about it babe, we'll be the best dressed in the hall.

C C// A7// D7 D7  
I'll be down to get you in a Taxi honey, you better be ready about half past eight,  
G7 G7 C// Cdim// G7  
Now dearie don't be late, I want to be there when the band starts playing.  
C C// A7// D7 D7  
Remember when we get there, Honey, the two steps I'm goin' to have em all,  
F Cdim C// E7// A7  
Goin' to dance out both my shoes, when they play the "Jelly Roll Blues,"  
D7 G7 C ( G7 )  
Tomorrow night at the Darktown Strutter's Ball.

C G7 C G7  
We'll meet our hightoned neighbors, an exhibition of the "Baby dolls,"  
G G// E7// Am// D7// G// G7//  
And each one will do their best, just to outclass all the rest,  
C G7  
And there'll be dancers from ev'ry foreign land,  
E7 Am  
The classic buck and wing, and the wooden clog:  
G G// E7// Am// D7// G// G7//  
We'll win that fifty dollar prize, when we step out and "Walk the Dog."



Published in 1917, Darktown Strutter's Ball became an instant classic. "Darktown" was a region of Chicago. It is believed there was an exclusive, invitation-only ball there that became the must-have ticket of the year. Shelton Brooks makes several popular references in his song including "Jelly Roll Blues", published in 1915 by Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton, and Brooks' own hit "Walk the Dog." It is not clear who the "Baby Dolls" were; likely a local dance group.