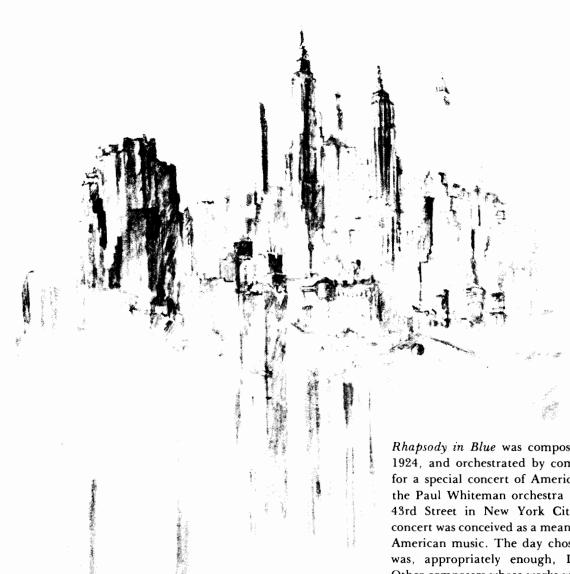


GERSHWIN

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Rhapsody in Blue was composed at the piano in 1924, and orchestrated by composer Ferde Grofé for a special concert of American music given by the Paul Whiteman orchestra at Aeolian Hall on 43rd Street in New York City. The Whiteman concert was conceived as a means to promote native American music. The day chosen for the concert was, appropriately enough, Lincoln's birthday. Other composers whose works were performed that day included Victor Herbert, Irving Berlin, and Edward MacDowell. Present at the concert were many famous concert artists and composers, such as Sergei Rachmaninoff, Fritz Kreisler, Leopold Stokowski, Jascha Heifetz, Walter Damrosch, Ernest Bloch, and John Phillip Sousa.

The Rhapsody was greeted with a great ovation and has maintained its instant popularity ever since. George Gershwin, the composer of Tin Pan Alley tunes, had made it to the concert hall, and, in the process, had demonstrated to the critics, to other composers, and to the public that jazz and popular music and their composers are worthy of serious study.

The piano solo was revised slightly by Gershwin after the concert to give us the work as we know it today. Several orchestral arrangements have been made, and the *Rhapsody* has been transcribed for various solo instruments, and has been arranged for ballet and dance groups.

Rhapsody in Blue

























































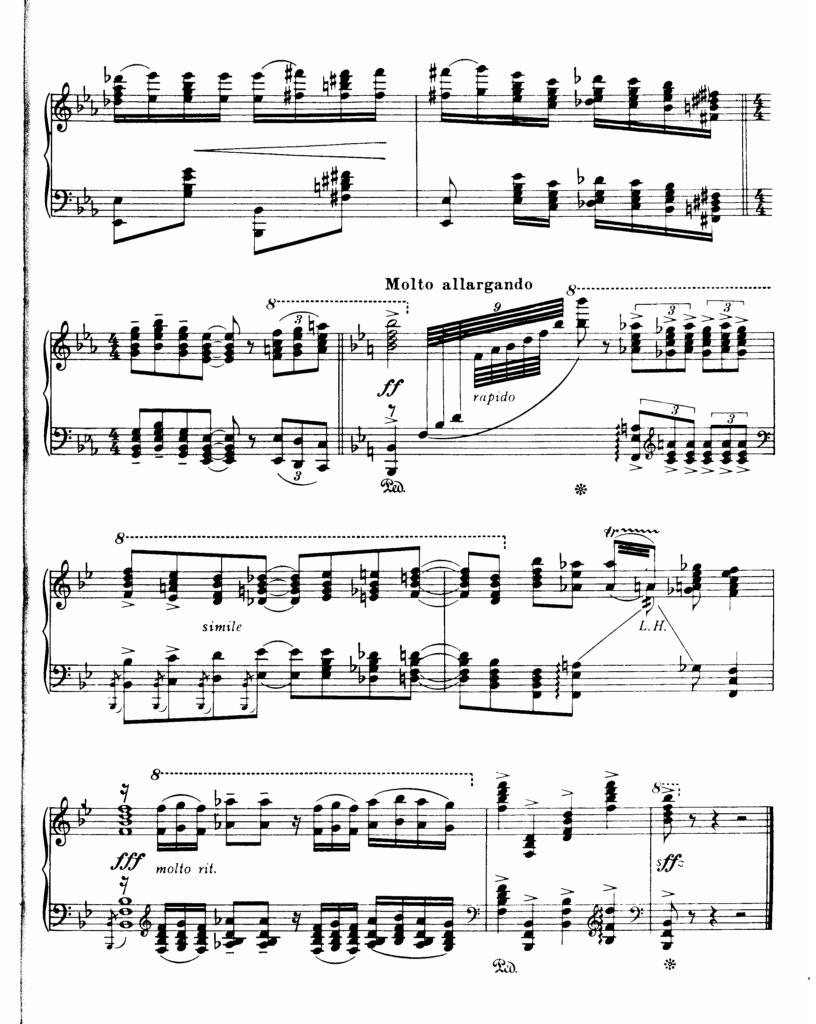












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