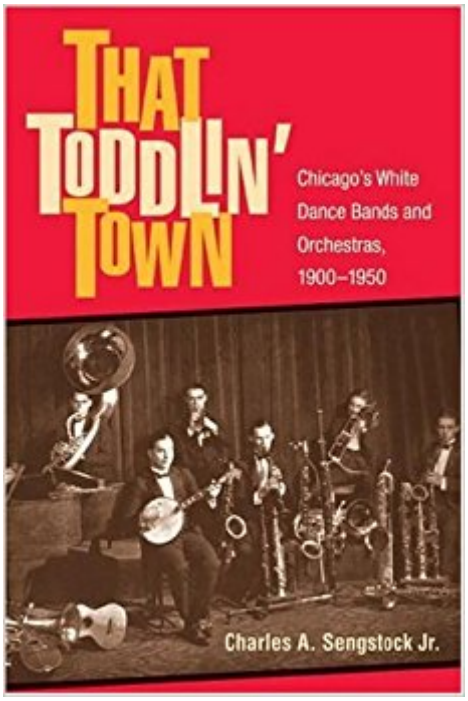
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That Toddlin' Town: Chicago's White Dance Bands And Orchestras, 1900-1950 (Music In American Life)



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Synopsis

As a centre for jazz and blues, vaudeville, and a budding recording industry, Chicago and its environs probably spawned more nationally recognized dance bands than any other city in the United States in the 1920s and 30s. While ample attention has been paid to their black counterparts, Charles A. Sengstock Jr.’s That Toddlin’ Town looks at the history of the white dance bands, theater orchestras, radio studio ensembles and night club bands. Sengstock examines these bands not only in terms of the music they played but also in the context of the venues in which they played and Chicago’s volatile economic and social climate. Viewing the bands as an economic system, he analyzes them as businesses with all the usual pressures brought on by ambition, personality clashes, and the overriding need to serve clients. More than a mere popular phenomenon, these dance bands--along with their charismatic leaders, powerful booking agencies, and the Chicago Federation of Musicians--had a major impact on the music industry at large and influence over other entertainment media.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book is a worthy edition to Chicago jazz lore, focusing on a neglected side of the music business (stressing that it WAS a business)... overall, it’s an excellent work and well recommended."--VJM’s Jazz and Blues Mart, Issue 137 Spring 2005

It was interesting but disappointing in that Art Kassel was only mentioned, no dialouge; he was popular in the area.

The latest volume in the "Music in American Life" series, That Toddlin' Town: Chicago's White Dance Bands and Orchestras, 1900-1950 is an economic history the band business of Chicago prior to World War II. Written by an experienced jazz and dance band researcher, That Toddlin' Town covers big names such as Edgar Benson, Jules Stein and James Petrillo, and more, as well as the endeavors of dance bands, the role of early dance halls, ice rinks, and beer gardens, how dance bands earned popular respect, the impact of the Great Depression, and much more. A thoroughly researched account, featuring an extensive bibliography and index, That Toddlin' Town is a "must-have" for jazz and dance band historians.

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