

REINDEER by Joseph F. Lamb

ragtime classics for guitar

Transcribed & edited by Marcel Robinson

GUITAR WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

Theodore Presser Co., Sole Representative

Bryn Mawr, Pa., 19010

Moce.

\$1.25



Reindeer

By Joseph F. Lamb (1915)

Transcribed by Marcel Robinson

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The Guitar Workshop, founded in 1963, offers a unique program which combines private and group instruction in almost all aspects of guitar, including: classical, folk, flamenco, ragtime, blues, ear training, theory, chamber ensemble, 5-string banjo, lute, traditional balladry, and seminars on the educational uses of folk song. Annually, more than 500 students of all levels (including professionals as well as beginners) enroll for various programs during the fall, spring and summer sessions.

Chartered by the NY State Board of Regents, The Workshop has also been the recipient of grants from the NY State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to promote concerts featuring folk music or classical guitar.

Information about The Workshop's educational program may be obtained by writing: P.O. Box 326, Roslyn Heights, N.Y. 11577

The arranger, Marcel Robinson, has drawn from the rich music heritage of his unique Creole and Scottish backgrounds. Born in New Orleans where he studied piano and jazz, he later studied theory in Paris and guitar in Barcelona. In 1971, he won first prize at the International Competition for Composers in Italy (for guitar). His idiomatic arrangements of ragtime for the guitar reveal a remarkable understanding of both ragtime style and its suitability for the guitar.

The composer, Joseph F. Lamb, was born in Montclair, New Jersey in 1887. His life was unusual in two respects: first, he was among a handful of very early white ragtime composers who successfully captured the style and feeling of classic ragtime; and second, his activities as a composer and musician were solely avocational-- he did not perform. After attending college in Canada, where he studied to become an electrical engineer, he spent his life working in a New York textile house.

When Lamb was twenty years old, he met Scott Joplin in the NYC office of ragtime publisher John Stark. (Stark had, in 1899, published Joplin's Maple Leaf Rag.) Joplin took a liking to the young Lamb and offered to help him. In fact, the first of Lamb's own ragtime compositions bore Joplin's name as co-author, because Joplin felt it would help the piece to sell. By the time Lamb published his last ragtime composition in 1919, the crest of the ragtime wave had subsided. He died in 1960.

The music, *Reindeer Rag*, was originally published for piano in 1915, by the Edwin H. Morris Company. Its original key of G has been retained. The doubling of octaves in the bass line obviously had to be eliminated in transcribing the work for guitar. Its original form consisted of: *intro/aa/bb/a/cc/dd*, the latter two sections forming what Lamb called the trio. The present version follows the sequence: *intro/aa/bb/a/cc/a*-- the more traditional rondo form. The second part of the trio has been deleted. For purposes of clarity, many non-melodic chord tones have also been deleted in this transcription for guitar.

Guitar Workshop Publications are designed to serve a wide audience ranging from advanced players and concert performers on one hand, to beginning students on the other. Guitar Workshop Publications will include (at various levels) accompaniments to traditional folk songs as well as the historical ballad; ragtime classics for solo or duo; and classical repertoire.

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