

THE SOUND OF TAP

296-PAGES-HARDCOVER WITH COMPILATION:

273 TRACKS (WAV-FILES) ON A USB STICK

With contributions from:

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Please order your copy at: <https://vkjk.de/tap.html>
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47 detailed biographies

Arfel (Armand Félot) · Fred Astaire · Sten Axelson · Rosy Barsony · Len Bermon · Evi Bodo · Jack Buchanan · Philip Buchel · Emelyne Collier · Bill Currie · Sammy Davis Jr. · Slim Gaillard · Harry Hackett · Adelaide Hall · Tokio Hayashi · The Henderson Twins · Edna Holdt · Maggie Hulstrøm-Carlsen · Jack Hulbert · Ellis Jackson · Fumiko Kawahata · Gene Kelly · The Krakajax (Michael Atlas) · Evelyn Künneke · Carmen Lahrmann · Huddie Ledbetter (Lead Belly) · Victor Leopold · Jessie Matthews · Dinah Miller · Kathy Moore · Arthur Murray · Cliff Nazarro · The Nicholas Brothers · Fin Olsen · Eleanor Powell · Elsie Randolph · Marina Ried · Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson · Paal Roschberg · Leslie Sarony · Jack et Billie Sée · The Five Sherry Brothers · Victor Silvester · Irène de Trébert · Floria Vestoff · Ned Wayburn · James R. Whitton

The Sound of Tap is a comprehensive compilation of internationally recorded tap dancing between 1926 and 1949. Tap dancing developed along with Jazz music from Ragtime over Swing to Bebop and Bigband. The Sound of Tap presents an audible history of tap dance that has rarely been accessible and therefore received little attention. One can hear the pioneers of tap dance as well as lesser known exponents on rare and sometimes unique recordings.

An entire chapter is dedicated to Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson, the father of tap dancing, including unpublished radio and private recordings. Fred Astaire's tap recordings are presented here in their entirety for the first time and include six alternate takes. Newly researched and detailed biographies are provided for a total of 47 performers, and for the first time one gets an insight into the largely unknown history of tap dancing in Europe. **Part 3** with educational records for tap instruction is dedicated to the pedagogical aspect of tap dance and the topics: Rhythm representation, notation and terminology. Here Uwe Meusel uses historical documents to present his system of tap dance notation, which solves a number of problems of previous notation systems. At the end there are 40 accompaniments included, to tap dance to the original sound of the 1930s.

The USB stick, integrated into the cover, contains 273 music titles in 9 WAV-folders. Restored from Shellac originals, more than half of these titles have not been published digitally before. The hardcover in 25 x 25 cm record format has liner notes and descriptions for each track. 251 label illustrations and ca. 460 photos make what you hear vivid. This multi-media documentary offers an insight into the development of swing music on the show-and vaudeville stage as well as in the international musical film of the 1920s, 30s and 40s. A historical collection of material that every tap lover and shellac fan should own.

Part 1: American Recordings 1929–1949

- 1: A Tribute to Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson (1929–1949)
- 2: Beginnings & American Recordings (1930–1949)
- 3: The Artistry of Fred Astaire (1926–1946)

Part 2: European Recordings 1926–1947

- 4: Great Britain (1926–1936)
- 5: Great Britain, Japan and France (1935–1944)
- 6: Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Belgium (1930–1947)

Part 3: Tap Dance Educational Records 1926–1940 (incl. 8 PDF-files with a total of 221 pages)

- 7: Tap Dance Instruction USA (1926–1940)
- 8: Tap Dance Instruction Europe (1934–1939)
- 9: Tap Dance Practice Records (1928–1939)

The publication (written in English) is scheduled for October 2024.

For getting started 200 subscriptions were needed. This number has been reached.

For all future orders the price is € 248 (per copy) plus shipping (plus custom fees for non-EU Countries).