

Town Topic Rag

transcribed by agafnd

Chords: Gb, Ab7, Db7, Gb, Gb, Ab7, Db7, Db9, Eb7, Ab7, Gb, Gb7, Cb, Cb-, Gb, Gb#5, Gb6, Gb7, Bb-7, Eb7, B-7, E7, Eb7, Ab7, Db7, Gb, Gb.

Gb Eb7 Ab7 Db7 Gb Eb7 Ab7 Db7
 Gb Bb- F7 Bb- Db7
 Gb Eb7 Ab7 Db7 Gb Eb7 Ab7 Db7
 Ab7 Db7 Eb7 Ab7 Db Db7 D.S.

I found this delightful tune by searching archive.org for "town" and filtering for audio + years that would be in the public domain.

It was recorded by the Louisiana Five in 1919 or so and is attributed to Lada & Spencer. Since it has no lyrics you are free to imagine that it is about the /topic in #tildetown.

Recording technology was not very good back then and this reproduction of it has quite a lot of surface noise. So, it was hard for me to hear what the chords really are. I'm sure I wrote them wrong in several places but they mostly work. As for the melody, most of the variations are up to the performer.

Speaking of performances, I decided to record it myself. Very possibly I'm the first person to do so since 1919. I did it with two tracks, both acoustic guitar, in a sort of jazz manouche style. I think it sounds OK given that I just learned it tonight and some of the chords are kind of off.

Get links to the recordings here:

<https://tilde.town/~agafnd/town-topic-rag.html>