

CUSTOMSFORGE'S

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue #13

ABOUT US

CustomsForge is a website created in 2014 by the Rocksmith community to make their own songs, communicate more easily and enjoy the game all together

Currently we are approaching more than 35,000 charts made by the community, and have more than 300,000 members.

We welcome thousands more each month



Rocksmith 2014 Remastered logo

WELCOME

Welcome to CustomsForge's monthly newsletter, where you can find the latest news about CF and Rocksmith 2014 Remastered.

Remembrance day

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, hostilities in the First World War ended. Since then, the 11th day of November is held as a day to remember all of those who died in the line of duty by the Commonwealth member states (except Mozambique). We would like to make a little memorial for them with a list of songs about soldiers all around the world and an article talking about their little pleasures in such a dire time.

War songs

Dire Straits – Brothers in Arms

Metallica – One

Iron Maiden – The Trooper

Credence Clearwater Revival – Fortunate Son

U2 – Sunday Bloody Sunday

Black Sabbath – War Pigs

Alice In Chains – Rooster

The Clash – Spanish Bombs

Dead Kennedys – When Ya Get Drafted

King 810 – War Outside

The Rolling Stones – Gimme Shelter

Buffalo Springfield – For What It's Worth

Men at Work – It's a Mistake

Lars Frederiksen and the Bastards – Vietnam

Sabaton – 40:1

Iron Maiden – Run to the Hills

Rage Against the Machine – Guerrilla Radio

Slayer – Eyes of the Insane

Dream Theatre – The Enemy Inside

Five Finger Death Punch – Wrong Side of Heaven

Iced Earth – Clear the Way

Warbringer – Combat Shock

Rage Against the Machine – Bulls On Parade



Soldiers in WWI

Music from World War One

One hundred and one years ago, The Great War came to an end. One of humanity's biggest tragedies left a torn and desolate Europe. Its inhabitants tried to continue life as usual and so did soldiers on the battlefield while the war lasted.

Pre-war music

The war began in 1914. Before then, ragtime dominated the musical landscape.

Ragtime is a musical style that enjoyed its peak popularity between 1895 and 1919. Its main trait is its syncopated or "ragged" rhythm. The style has its origins in African-American communities in cities such as St. Louis –we'll later see how they played a large role in post-war music as well- and it was originally a modification of the **march style** popularized by John Philip Sousa, with additional **polyrhythms** coming from African music.

Ragtime quickly became one of America's signature music styles, and it became as well **the first African-American music to have an impact on mainstream popular culture.** It was accepted in all spheres of society: In the "sporting houses" (bordellos)

“Ragtime faded into jazz and became more raffish. Brass bands created intoxicating tunes and expressed new ways of life”

of New Orleans piano “professors” such as Jelly Roll Morton would play for the public. Polite society assimilated it thanks to brass bands and “society” dance bands. According to Wikipedia: *Bands led by W. C. Handy and James R. Europe were among the first to crash the color bar in American music. **The new rhythms of Ragtime changed the world of dance bands and led to new dance steps**, popularized by the show-dancers Vernon and Irene Castle during the 1910s.*



Scott Joplin, the “King of Ragtime”

Pro-war music: Civilians

As it always happens with wars and political events, musicians around the world were inspired to compose pieces for their cause. **Songs were mainly patriotic odes**, mainly because they were performed in music halls. The masses couldn't afford gramophones –although they certainly had seen and heard one in seaside resorts or in park concerts organized by local councils.

In these spaces, pro-war songs grew popular amongst the masses and soldiers (before being sent to the war) alike. So much, in fact, that **they started to overshadow other events such as magicians and human freaks.** Real hit songs were composed during this time, which could easily sell a million copies of sheet music. It was extremely profitable.



1917 advertisement for "An 80-page pocket-size patriotic song book"

raise their morale.

Themes would vary: **Love** and dreams of an ideal land were common, as well as **humorous stereotypes**, many at the expense of black and Jewish people, the bourgeoisie, dominant mothers-in-law and foreigners. Some were made of **tongue-twisters** and other comic elements too.

Oddly enough, recruitment songs such as *Now You've Got the Khaki On* were popular in the trenches for some time but not as much back home. **The war progressed** and the body count grew in size, so most people got fed up with patriotic songs **and the themes slowly changed to dreams about the end of the war.** *When the Boys Come Home* and *Keep the Home Fires Burning* are two well-known examples.

Anti-war music

One thing that's important to have in mind when talking about this subject is **how difficult it was to express different views about the war in a popular space.** Music-halls didn't want to assume the risk of being shamed by the public and getting their license removed, and most people just didn't want to sing along to those lyrics. **So** when the anti-war movement finally had, for a few months **in 1916**, a mass audience, **anti-war music** halls songs from the United States such as *I Didn't Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier* **were sung at anti-war meetings, but not on the music hall stage.**

Pro-war music: Soldiers

But what about the troops who couldn't attend these events? **They experienced most of these songs through gramophones.** Many manufacturers would produce cheap, portable ones for their respective countries' armies. These songs helped

Post-war music

Fate likes to play cruel games on us and **the first jazz record was published a month before the United States joined the war.** As classical-music.com said: *Though it would be silly to maintain that the Original Dixieland Jazz Band's raucous creation of 'Livery Stable Blues' and 'Original Dixieland One-Step' was comparable to thousands of American soldiers throwing themselves into the European fray, both events signalled New World energy surging into Old World culture, a wave of modernity that would transform everything in its path.*

Ragtime faded into **jazz** and **became more visceral and raffish.** Brass bands created intoxicating **tunes and expressed a new way of life**, one which would mark the interwar period between World War I and World War II, particularly in **the Roaring Twenties.**

A small memorial

Before we end this article, it is important that we remember something. **Uncountable lives were lost and uncountable countries were destroyed** in a conflict which was -perhaps foolishly- believed that would end the human armed conflict forever.

We cannot possibly make a list with all the soldiers' names who died to stop such atrocity, but **we** at least **can try remembering some of those musicians and composers who died sooner than they should have**, and we shouldn't forget.

George Butterworth (1885-1916)
 Frederick Septimus Kelly (1881-1916)
 Rudi Stephan (1887-1915)
 Enrique Granados (1867-1916)
 Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Rest In Peace

Bibliography:

Wikipedia: *Music of World War 1*
 Classical-music.com: *What was the impact of World War One on music?*
 Remembering WW1: *Popular culture during WW1*
 Wikipedia: *Ragtime*
 Classic FM: *Gassed, killed, bankrupted, inspired: great composers in the First World War*



CustomForge's profile picture in all social media accounts.

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Charter's tip of the month: "Take you time and do your research. Some tabs will show better sounding notes and others will be easier to play. You'll have to decide which one to use" – **Chips**

Website Updates

If you see a dead link, make sure to report it! Please remember that the website depends on donations so donate once in a while, any amount helps!

Moderators & Server Admin

We are looking for some moderators and a server admin, if you are suited for these positions then follow the link at the bottom of the page.

Mac heroes

Here's a shoutout to all the people that managed to get the mac CDLCs working so fast: **baestrie**, LovroM8, MTPenguin, JustinAiken, Dale, Ffio and firekorn.

PATREONS

An extra special shoutout to all of those who supports us with a couple bucks every month. You may not realize it but your kindness helps us more than you can imagine.

Thank you for reading CustomsForge's monthly newsletter. Keep on rockin'!

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