

Students of Ragtime

- Composer, teacher, publisher – made ragtime accessible to the average pianist while making a nice profit at the same time
- opened his first ragtime instruction school in Chicago in 1903 with the promise of "Ragtime Taught in Ten Lessons."
- by 1908 he had four music schools in Chicago and was selling his instruction books by mail order. The first was published in 1906: *"Christensen's Instruction Book Number 1 for Rag-Time Piano Playing"*
- opened a branch of his school in San Francisco in 1908, Cincinnati by 1910 and then St. Louis
- Eventually would open 92 schools across the U.S. and sell instruction books to more than 350,000 registered students.
- Published monthly *Ragtime Review* magazine from 1914 to 1918, and included tricks and tips, humorous stories, and articles on performers

The Minnesota Rag (1913)

- The S.S. Minnesota steam ship of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Buffalo Line
- "Respectfully dedicated to the Officers and Crew of the S.S. Minnesota to whose kindness and courtesy I am indebted for the most delightful week I ever spent – on that wonderful cruise of the Great Lakes between Chicago and Buffalo. "



Axel Christensen (1881-1955)

- ❖ born to Danish immigrants in Chicago, Illinois
- ❖ typical musical upbringing that included piano lessons as well as harmony and theory
- ❖ In 1902 (age 21), he published his first rag and established a ragtime instruction school a year later
- ❖ known as the "Czar of Ragtime", a title he used often in Vaudeville

