

Self-publishing and Tin Pan Alley

- The early 1900s was a very active period for music (like the 1960s with the Beatles and rock 'n roll)
- Ragtime piano music was performed at fairs, for vaudeville shows, in theatres, and sporting houses (another name for a house of prostitution)
- But ragtime really caught on through the sale of piano sheet music, allowing the new middleclass to learn the latest tunes at home (remember, the record business was just beginning and radio only came along in the 1920s)
- Sheet music was sold at the local music store and the big department stores. "Song pluggers" would play the tune before you bought the sheet music
- Many composers got their start by printing their own compositions, often selling them door-to-door
- As the ragtime craze took hold, the major music publishers got involved. Most were based in a district of New York City known as Tin Pan Alley (West 28th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues)



Harry J. Lincoln (1878-1937)

- ❖ born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, son of a coal miner
- ❖ moved to nearby Williamsport in 1900 as a music teacher, choirmaster and organist
- ❖ self-published his first compositions and pursued a career as a music publisher and printer
- ❖ Halley's Comet 1910. We saw it in 1986. Next is 2062
- ❖ Also wrote *Poverty Rag* (1908)

