

TRICENTENNIAL

'The Banjo,' which Gottschalk finished

in 1854, is considered one of his most

popular works and mirrored the sounds

of the repetitive banio strains that were

common in New Orleans.

From Bienville to Bourbon Street to bounce. 300 moments that make New Orleans unique.

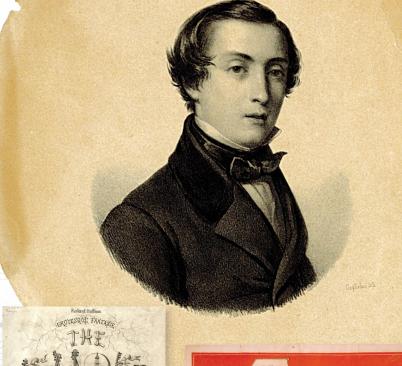


WHAT HAPPENED

Louis Moreau Gottschalk was born on May 8, 1829.

Like the New Orleans piano masters who would follow him, Louis Moreau Gottschalk

incorporated the street sounds of New Orleans into his music.



Coy & Bally Depare and three 18 at Space Beauty 5

Gottschalk embarked on ambitious tours, at one time in 1862 performing in 85 different concerts over 4½ months and occasionally using dozens of additional piano players.





Gottschalk produced his first major work 'Bamboula' in 1848, said to be inspired by the dance of the same name that was popular in Congo Square when he was growing up.

Unlike other New Orleans piano masters, though, Gottschalk played classical music. He enamored an international audience with his ability to compress the sounds of a place into his pieces. Gottschalk's rhythms are familiar to listeners of ragtime and jazz, but Gottschalk was born in 1829, about 70 years before the birth of ragtime.

A Jewish Creole, Gottschalk was born at Esplanade and Royal streets, just blocks from Congo Square and grew up on Rampart Street.

By 13, he was showing such talent on the piano that his father sent him to Europe for training. Frédéric Chopin attended Gottschalk's first public concert in 1845 and predicted that he would become "king of pianists."

Some of Gottschalk's melodies, including "Bamboula," were obviously influenced by the rhythms of Congo Square.

Gottschalk returned to the United States in 1853, but he never lived in New Orleans again. He became the first American composer to gain international recognition, writing more than 300 compositions and playing hundreds of concerts in Europe, the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and in Central and South America.