Music at the 1893 World's Fair

A Multimedia Performance with Commentary
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
6:00 to 7:30 pm

The Fair was celebrated as a key moment in the cultural life of the city and the nation.

Music played a significant role at the Fair, both in the Exposition proper and on the Midway, from the officially sanctioned orchestral concerts by the new Chicago Symphony Orchestra and other classical musicians to the various cultural ensembles and street musicians on the Midway and beyond.

Primarily at the Midway, Americans received their first taste of musical exoticism, including their first exposure to Indonesian gamelan music and the Hawaiian hula. Most visitors regarded the sounds as “cacophonous” rather than musical, but a door had been opened to a wider world of musical experience, and it would never be closed again.

This musical performance with accompanying commentary will feature music drawn from the Newberry’s extensive archive of World’s Columbian Exposition material, including pieces actually heard at the Fair in 1893 along with music that was sold as “souvenir” pieces.

Featuring Don Meyer, producer, narrator, and music director; Kate Carter, violin; Jean Hatmaker, cello; Brad Jungwirth, baritone; François Henkins, violin; Ben Weber, viola; and Chris White, piano.

Funded by a grant from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, this event is part of our programming in connection with the exhibition Pictures from an Exposition: Visualizing the 1893 World’s Fair. See it from September 28 to December 31, 2018, at the Newberry.

Register to attend online at www.newberry.org/public-programs