

# 1429. Summertime

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

**Rhoda Scott** (born July 3, 1938, in Dorothy, New Jersey, USA) is an African American hard bop and soul jazz organist. As the daughter of Church President Scott, she spent much of her childhood in New Jersey, where she learned to play the organ in the church where her father served. She soon became a frequent organist for youth and gospel choirs in other churches. She later studied classical piano, but concentrated on the organ and eventually earned a master's degree in music theory from the Manhattan School of Music. At that time she was asked by a choir member to play with a small band as a jazz pianist. She enjoyed the music and agreed to stay with the band on the condition that she could play the organ instead of the piano. With the choice of the Hammond organ as her instrument, she soon became an outstanding jazz musician and was considered by many to be the best jazz organist.

It really is the most beautiful instrument in the world," she said in a recent interview. "The first thing I did was to take off my shoes and work the pedals, from then on she always played barefoot on her church organ, and to this day she has continued the practice and got her nicknames like "The Barefoot Lady" or "The Barefoot Contessa". "In 1967 Rhoda Scott moved to France, where she has since spent most of her career and received far more recognition than she did in the United States, although she often performs in that country.

Summertime is the title from the opera "Porgy and Bess" by George Gershwin (music), Ira Gershwin and DuBose Heyward (libretto), which premiered in 1935. Summertime was marketed as an independent song isolated from this opera and developed into the most covered jazz and pop standard of all time. The Volksoper, written by George Gershwin in 1934, is set in a black harbour environment. It is based on the 1924 novel Porgy



of DuBose Heyward, first read by George Gershwin. The lullaby Summertime was the first song for the opera that Gershwin had completed in February 1934. The idea for the melody came to Gershwin in 1926 when he heard the Ukrainian lullaby *Oi Khodyt Son Kolo Vikon* (A Dream Passes the Window) from Oleksander Koshetz's Ukrainian National Choir. Unsurpassed in the history of music is the number of cross-style cover versions following the original and the stage performance. One of the first pop versions was released by Perry Como in March 1952, followed in jazz by Ella Fitzgerald in duet with Louis Armstrong on August 18, 1957.



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Jazz-Hit 1935 von GEORGE GERSHWIN  
in Hammond-Version RHODA SCOTT 1998

Edit.: S. Radic

Blues-Swing, T=60/75

The musical score is presented in a multi-staff format. The top staff is for the Organ, the second for Strings, the third for Guitar, the fourth for Bass, and the fifth for Drums. The score is divided into two main sections: Main 1 (Tempo = 60) and Main 2 (Tempo = 75). The Organ part in Main 2 features a triplet. The Drums part includes notation for HH-op. Tambourin and BD.

Programming instruction

This "Blues-Swing"-programming consists of two different tempos, which will lead to the fact that you have to program Main1 as a unique style with some devices - ditto then also with Main 2! But you can also use the Main2 tempo for both - but then the very slow "Blues-Swing" is gone! But this solution is the best: or better than looking for the right tempo with your hand at the tempo control while playing...The basic beat structure is different for both Main1. Main1 is a 4Beat, Main2 is an 8Beat - and this causes the "tempo doubling". What is also extremely atypical in the notation of a blues is the almost completely missing triplet feeling, represented by the ternary spelling. Only the organ part uses this notation, because there is no other way. In the Main2 ditto - but related to the eighths - which should not be played "triolisch" at all - at that moment this "Blues-Swing" becomes a "Blues-Schuffle"! How is this possible? Because the "quarter" and the "eighth" structures are actually identical from their role as basic clock structures of a 4/4 or 8/8 beat - only doubled in tempo!