

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910966892603321
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Titolo	Sounds of reform : progressivism and music in Chicago, 1873-1935 // Derek Vaillant
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chapel Hill, : University of North Carolina Press, c2003
ISBN	9798890875594 9780807862421 0807862428
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (415 p.)
Disciplina	781.5/99/0977311
Soggetti	Music - Political aspects - Illinois - Chicago Progressivism (United States politics) Chicago (Ill.) Politics and government To 1950
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [363]-390) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preludes of reform : the Chicago Jubilee, Thomas "summer nights" concerts, and the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition -- Battle for the baton : ceremonial parks and the landscape of musical reform, 1869-1904 -- I was improvising right from the start : musical progressivism at Hull House, 1889-1919 -- Come over here and listen to the music : municipal power and local authority in the field house parks, 1903-1919 -- Music of the people is music of the world : the Civic Music Association and the racial challenges of World War I and its aftermath, 1912-1919 -- They whirl off the edges of a decent life : unmasking difference at the dance, 1904-1933 -- Sounds of whiteness : urban musical subcultures, race, and the public interest on Chicago airwaves, 1921-1935 -- Sound Americans : echoes of reform from the 1930s to the present.
Sommario/riassunto	Between 1873 and 1935, reformers in Chicago used the power of music to unify the diverse peoples of the metropolis. These musical progressives emphasized the capacity of music to transcend differences among various groups. Sounds of Reform looks at the history of efforts to propagate this vision and the resulting encounters between activists and ethnic, immigrant, and working-class residents.

Musical progressives sponsored free concerts and music lessons at neighborhood parks and settlement houses, organized music festivals and neighborhood dances, and used the radio waves as part of an unprecedented effort to advance civic engagement. European classical music, ragtime, jazz, and popular American song all figured into the musical progressives' mission. For residents with ideas about music as a tool of self-determination, musical progressivism could be problematic as well as empowering. The resulting struggles and negotiations between reformers and residents transformed the public culture of Chicago. Through his innovative examination of the role of music in the history of progressivism, Derek Vaillant offers a new perspective on the cultural politics of music and American society.

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