

The Charleston

Lyrics by: Cecil Mack (R.C. McPherson) Music by: James P Johnson
1923



This song was so popular that it started the Charleston dance craze of the
1920's-1930's

Midi from [Jacks Midi Music](#) If you can't hear the midi, [CLICK HERE](#)

Thanks to Eddy Nat for finding the lyrics!!!

Carolina, Carolina,
At last they've got you on the map.
With a new tune,
A funny blue tune,
With a peculiar snap!

You may not be able to buck and wing,
Fox-trot, two-step, or even sing,
If you ain't got religion in your feet
You can do this prance and do it neat.

[chorus]:

Charleston! Charleston!
Made in Carolina.
Some dance, some prance,
I'll say.
There's nothing finer than the Charleston,
Charleston.
Lord, how you can shuffle.
Ev'ry step you do leads to something new,
Man, I'm telling you it's a lapazoo.

Buck dance wing dance,
Will be a back number,
But the Charleston,
The new Charleston,
That dance is surely a comer.
Sometime you'll dance it one time,
The dance called the Charleston,
Made in north Caroline.

[INDEX](#)

Charleston

The dance sensation that best typified the flamingly youthful spirit of the 1920s was the high-kicking Charleston, which also happened to be the name of a song. Introduced in the 1923 all-Negro revue *Runnin' Wild*, the dance very soon replaced the shimmy as the favorite gyrational exercise in ballrooms across the nation.



Words and Music by
Cecil Mack
and Jimmy Johnson

(5)

With B_b
spirit

D₇

G₇

Charles - ton, — Charles - ton, — Made in Car - o - li - na, —

C₇

F₉

B_b6

Gdim.

F₇

Some dance, — Some prance, — I'll say, — There's nothing fin - er than the

B_b

D₇

G₇

Charles - ton, — Charles - ton, — Lord, how you can shuf - file, —

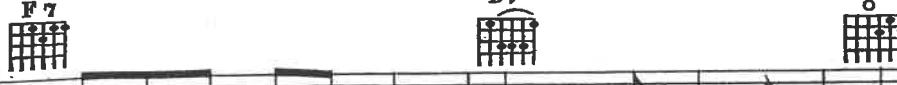
D_m

A₇

D₇

Ev'ry step — you do, Leads to some - thing new, Man I'm tell - ing you,

p cresc.



 It's a la - pa - zoo, Buck dance, — Wing dance, —



 Will be — a back num - ber, — But the Charles-ton, The new Charles-ton,



 That dance is sure-ly a com - er. Some - time, — You'll — dance it



 one time, — The dance called the Charles-ton, — Made in South Car-o -



 line! (No Chord)