

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.

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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

With spirit **Bb** **D7** **G7**

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

C7 **F9** **Bb6** **Gdim.** **F7**

Some dance, — Some prance, — I'll say, — There's noth - ing fin - er than the

Bb **D7** **G7** **C7**

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

Dm **A7** **D7**

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

F 7 **Bb** **D7**

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

G7 **C7** **F9**

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

Bb6 **G dim.** **F7** **Bb** **Bb7**

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

Eb **Ebm** **Bb6** **G dim.** **F7**

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

Bb **Bb7** **Eb** **Ebm** **Bb** (No Chord)

line!