

## Irving Berlin

### "That Opera Rag 28 Apr 1910"

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1st verse:]

Sam Johnson as op'ra mad  
He sho' had the fever bad  
He said, "Those ordinary ragtime tunes are mild  
Some music from Verdi's hand  
Or any old op'ra grand  
Would never fail to set this op'ra darkie wild"  
One evening at a ball  
They heard Sam Johnson call  
Unto the leaderman to play some "William Tell"  
The leader swelled his chest and said, "I'll do my best"  
So when he played they heard Sam Johnson yell

[chorus:]

Hear dat strain  
Mister Verdi come to life again  
Oh that operatic sweet refrain  
Sho' would drive a crazy man insane  
Just let me die and meet those brainy men  
Who manufactured notes of opera grand  
Oh! Verdi where, where oh art thou?  
Let me shake you by the hand, man, you know what's  
grand  
Good Lord, it's over, they're playin' "Home Sweet  
Home"

[2nd verse:]

Old Sam was a painter man  
One day with a brush in hand  
He stood upon a scaffold 'way up in the air  
A German band below  
Was playin' some "Rig'letto"  
Sam said, "I know that's op'ra, be it here or there"  
While he daubed up the wall  
He tried hard not to fall  
But in the street the band kept right on playin' fair  
They played some "Faust" below, just then old Sam let  
go  
He tumbled down below a-shouting in the air

