

**The Real American Folk Song (Is A Rag)**  
**(da *Ladies First*, 1918)**  
**IRA GERSHWIN, *Lyrics on several occasions*,**  
**New York, Limelight Editions, 1997, pp. 180-181**

Forma musicale del *refrain*: Canzone A1 A2 B A3, con le sezioni "A" ben differenziate tra loro a con A3 che si prolunga in una coda.

*Refrain*

A1

The real American folk song is a rag—  
    A mental jag—  
A rhythmic tonic for the chronic blues.

A2

The critics called it a joke song, but now  
They've changed their tune and they like it somehow.

B

For it's inoculated  
With a syncopated  
    Sort of meter,  
    Sweeter  
Than a classic strain;  
Boy! You can't remain  
    Still and quiet—  
    For it's a riot!

A3

The real american folk song  
    Is like a Fountain of Youth:  
    You taste, and it elates you,  
    And then invigorates you.  
The real american folk song—  
A master stroke song—  
    **IS A RAG!**