



The German Harmonica and African-American Blues

Herbert Quelle

German Consul General in Chicago

For about a century, starting in the late 1800s, the German harmonica was one of the most popular musical instruments in the United States. Cheap and portable, it was the pocket-sized companion of European immigrants, and—once introduced to the American South—became the instrument of choice for many African-American musicians, who developed a new way of playing it, ‘bending’ the harmonica’s notes to fit a traditional musical scale and making the little instrument an integral part of the emerging ‘blues.’

[more information at mki.wisc.edu](http://mki.wisc.edu)



Wednesday

February 15

7pm (followed by reception)

Pyle Center

UW–Madison

702 Langdon St.