

Music and Imagination (extract),

Aaron copland, 1953

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Mention ought to be made of two other composers of the middle nineteenth century: Louis Moreau Gottschalk of New Orleans and Carlos Gomes of Rio de Janeiro.

Both of them achieved fame abroad. Gottschalk led the life of a traveling piano virtuoso in the Lisztian manner. His importance historically comes from the fact that he is the earliest composer we know of who based his compositions on what are loosely called Latin American rhythms. It is only the exceptional piece of Gottschalk's that is of original quality; others are too obviously designed to dazzle the paying public. Nevertheless, he represents the first North American composer who made us aware of the rich source material to be derived from music of Hispanic origins.