Detroit, now a byword for abandonment, was "the capital of the twentieth century" in its early years, with its musical life casting a long shadow on the jazz, classical, and popular music worlds. The city's explosive growth meant that everyone was improvising: the establishment, including the public schools, and the waves of immigrants from Europe and the American South, both black and white. Dr. Slobin's talk interweaves his personal experience with interview and documentary sources to suggest the rich possibilities for urban ethnomusicology and researching the musical life of a distinctive and influential American city.