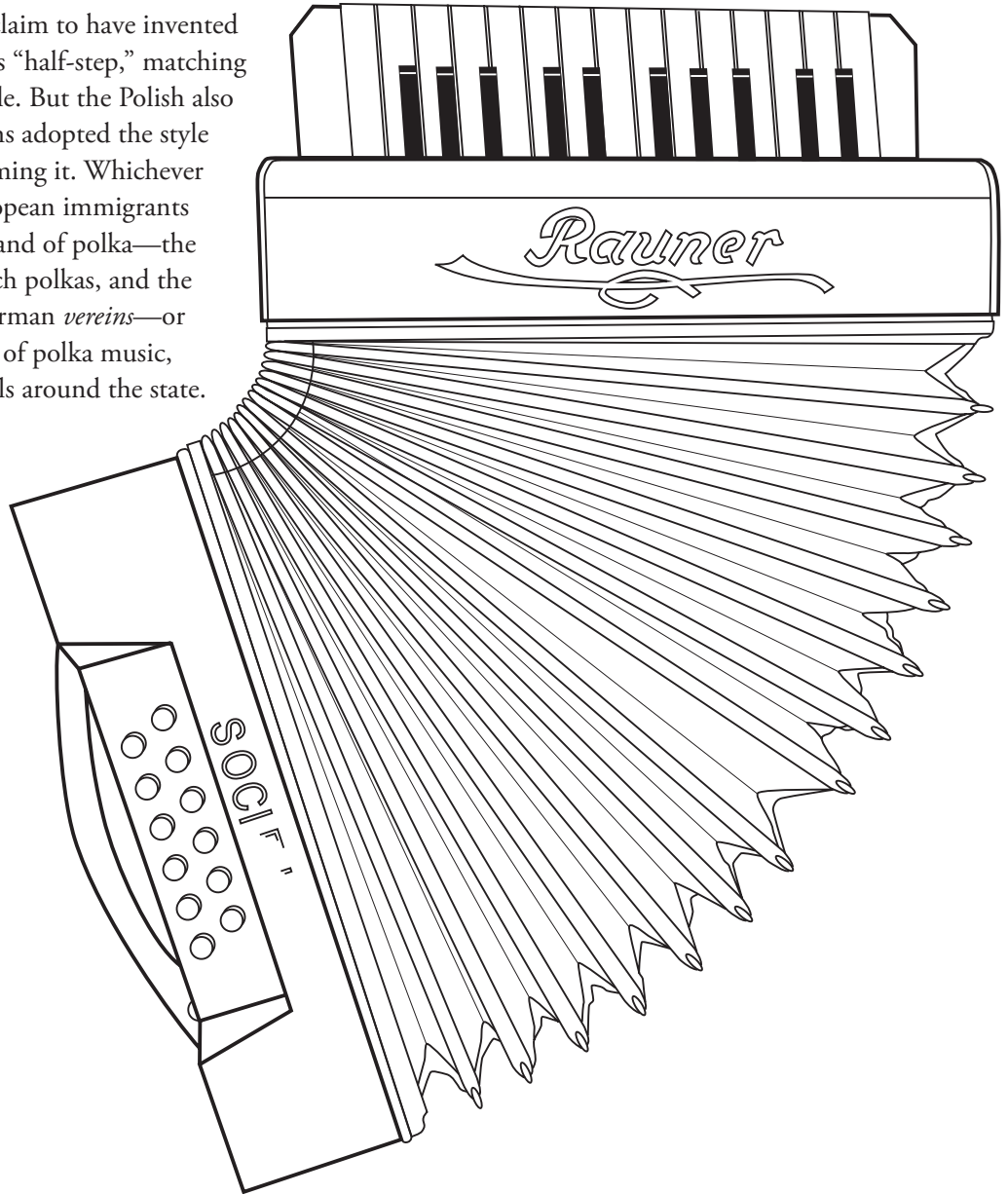


# HISTORY AT HOME

#TXHistoryAtHome

## German Heritage

DID YOU KNOW? The Czechs claim to have invented polka music; their word *pulka* means “half-step,” matching the 2/4 time characteristic of the style. But the Polish also take credit for polka, claiming Czechs adopted the style only after seeing a Polish girl performing it. Whichever story is true, in the mid-1800s, European immigrants to Texas brought with them their brand of polka—the accordion-leading German and Czech polkas, and the fiddle-leading Polish polkas. The German *vereins*—or associations—became the preservers of polka music, which is still played in the dance halls around the state.



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