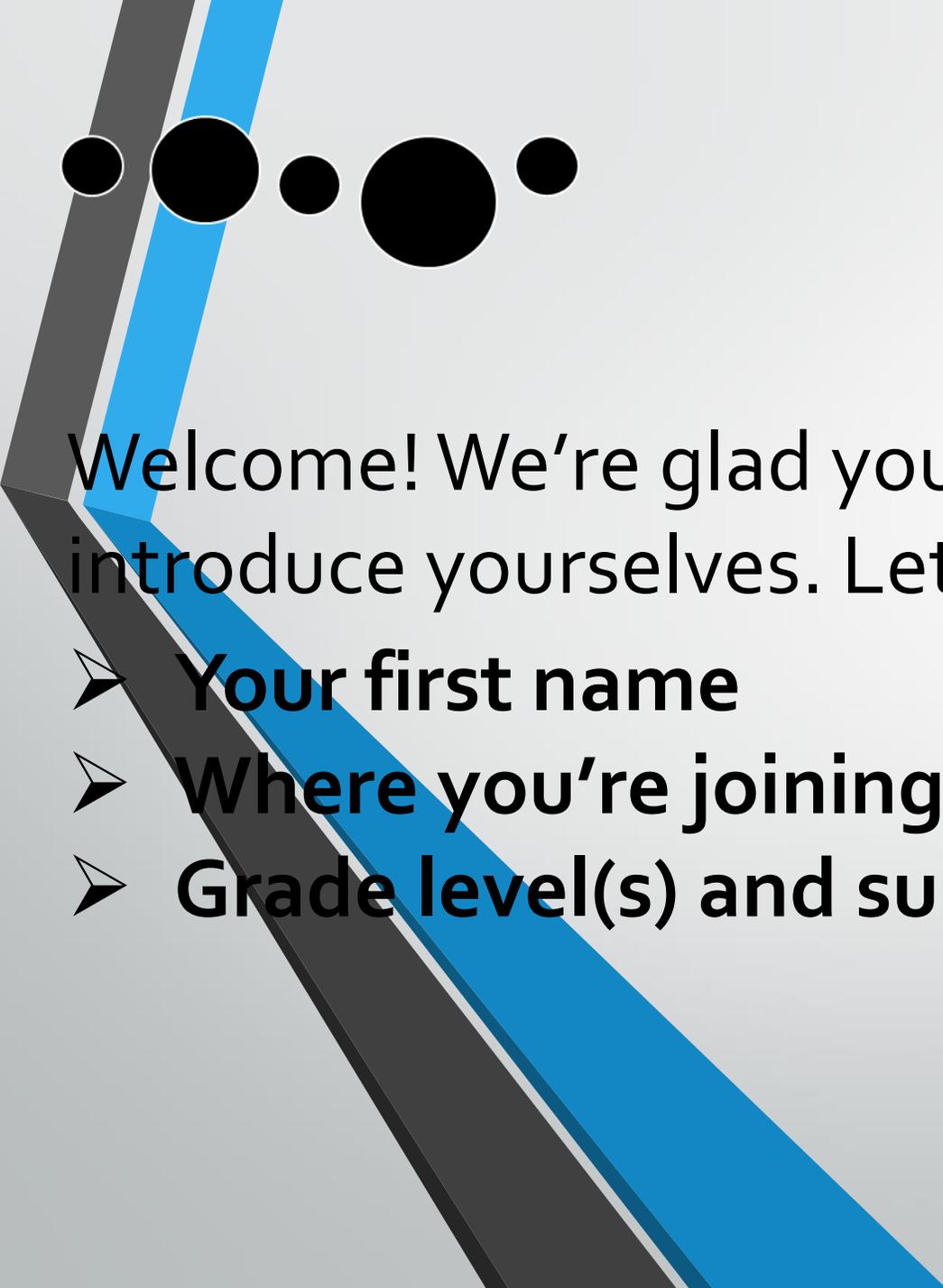


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We'll get started at 2PM ET





# Library of Congress Online Office Hours

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- **Where you're joining us from**
- **Grade level(s) and subject(s) you teach**

# Using the Library of Congress Ragtime Collection and Other Digital Music Resources in Your Classroom

James Wintle

Reference Specialist

Library of Congress, Music Division

Notice: Library buildings closed to the public until further notice. Public events canceled until September 1. Online services, resources available. [More](#) [✕](#)

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- Notated Music**
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## Danielle Allen Is Recipient of 2020 Kluge Prize

Author & political theorist to work with the Library to share expertise on justice and democracy with wide audience.

1/5

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# Digital Collections

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 The Aaron Copland collection consists of published and unpublished music by Copland and other composers, correspondence, writings, biographical material, datebooks, journals, professional papers, including...



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**Abdul Hamid II Collection**  
 These photographic albums portray the Ottoman Empire during the reign of one of its last sultans, Abdul-Hamid II. They highlight the modernization of numerous aspects of the Ottoman Empire. Most of the...



**COLLECTION**  
**Abdul-Hamid II Collection of Books and Serials Gifted to the Library of Congress**  
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# Digital Collections

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The Aaron Copland collection consists of published and unpublished music by Copland and other composers, correspondence, writings, biographical material, datebooks, journals, professional papers, including legal and...



**COLLECTION**  
**African-American Band Music & Recordings, 1883-1923**  
**Collection Items: View 333 Items**



**COLLECTION**  
**Alan Lomax Collection**  
Collection comprises manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs, film, and videorecordings created and collected by Alan Lomax in his work documenting song, music, dance, and body movement from many cultures. Includes field recordings and...

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African-American Band Music & Recordings, 1883 to 1923 1

10th-16th Century Liturgical Chants 1

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COLLECTION Alan Lomax Collection of Michigan and Wisconsin Recordings

Collection of field recordings with related color film documenting instrumental music, songs, stories, and interviews recorded primarily in Michigan and Wisconsin by Alan Lomax, August 1-November 1, 1938 for the Archive of...

Collection Items: View 444 Items



COLLECTION Albert Schatz Collection

Collection Items: View 12,255 Items



COLLECTION Amazing Grace

Collection Items: View 47 Items



COLLECTION America Singing: Nineteenth-Century Song Sheets

Collection of 4,291 song sheets for popular music from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress. Consisting of lyrics produced between the turn of the nineteenth century...

Collection Items: View 4,293 Items





**COLLECTION**  
**An American Ballroom Companion: Dance Instruction Manuals, ca. 1490-1920**

Presents over two hundred social dance manuals, pocket-sized books with diagrams used by itinerant dancing masters to teach the American gentry the latest dance steps. Includes anti-dance manuals as well as treatises...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
333 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**American Choral Music**  
**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
100 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**American English Dialect Recordings: The Center for Applied Linguistics Collection**

Collection of American English dialect recordings of speech samples, linguistic interviews, oral histories, conversations, and excerpts from public speeches submitted by various participants recorded at various locations and compiled by the Center...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
505 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**American Music Creators Web Archive**

The American Music Creators Web Archive is a collection of websites of musicians, performers, and composers contributing to the American music scene. The collection strives to be representative of all genres of...

**Collection Items:** [View 51](#)  
Items

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**COLLECTION**  
**Ballets Russes de Serge Diaghilev**

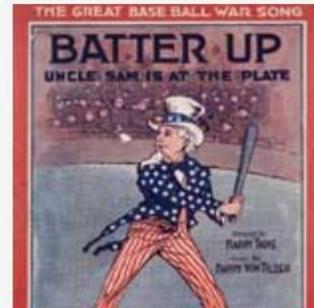
**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
175 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Band Music from the Civil War Era**

Makes available examples of a brilliant style of brass band music that flourished in the 1850s in the United States and remained popular through the nineteenth century. Bands of this kind served...

**Collection Items:** [View](#) 54 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Baseball Sheet Music**

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
296 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Bess Lomax Hawes Collection**

Papers and audiovisual materials relating to the career and personal life of folk arts administrator, folklorist, ethnomusicologist, filmmaker, musician, and teacher Bess Lomax Hawes, most from 1960-2001. Includes work produced by Hawes...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
365 Items



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**COLLECTION**  
**LC Commissioned Composers Web Archive**

The Music Division has commissioned over 450 composers since 1925, and continues to do so annually. World premiere performances of these commissions usually take place on the Library of Congress Concert Series....

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
197 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Leonard Bernstein**

The collection contains correspondence, photographs, writings, personal business papers, the archives from Bernstein's corporate identity, Amberson Inc., scrapbooks, clippings and press materials, programs, datebooks and schedules, iconography, and fan mail. In addition,...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
3,829 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**The Library of Congress Celebrates the Songs of America**

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
97,973 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Library of Congress Concerts**

**Collection Items:** [View 44](#)  
Items





**COLLECTION**  
**Lomax Collection**

Snapshots primarily documenting sound recording expeditions carried out by John Avery Lomax, Alan Lomax, and Ruby Terrill Lomax for the Archive of American Folk Song from 1934 to ca. 1950. Photographs depict...

**Collection Items:** [View 451 Items](#)



**COLLECTION**  
**Maine Acadian Cultural Survey Collection**

Collection consists of sound and video recordings, photographs, manuscript materials, printed materials, correspondence, field notes, and administrative files documenting folklife--including architecture, music, dance, storytelling, material culture, and occupational culture--in the Upper Saint...

**Collection Items:** [View 270 Items](#)



**COLLECTION**  
**The March King: John Philip Sousa**

A comprehensive archive of materials related to John Philip Sousa which include music manuscripts, photographs, literary manuscripts, and business papers.

**Collection Items:** [View 708 Items](#)



**COLLECTION**  
**Martha Graham at the Library of Congress**

The Martha Graham Collection is comprised of materials that document Graham's career and trace the history of the development of her company, Martha Graham Dance Company, which became the Martha Graham Center...

**Collection Items:** [View 1,004 Items](#)

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**COLLECTION**  
**Now What a Time:  
Blues, Gospel, and the  
Fort Valley Music  
Festivals, 1938-1943**

Collection of disc copies of field recordings of gospel quartets; Negro sacred harp singers recorded in Ozark, Alabama in September 1938; blues, instrumentals on guitar, banjo, harmonica, bass fiddle, and piano, recorded...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
182 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Omaha Indian Music**

Ethnographic field collection of traditional Omaha music from the 1890s through the 1980s. Contains recordings from wax cylinders, songs, speeches, interviews, photographs, field notes, and tape logs. Features material from the 1983...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
873 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Patriotic Melodies**

This collection consists of sheet music and sound recordings of patriotic music. The WWW site tells the stories behind many of the songs that have now become part of the American national...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
148 Items



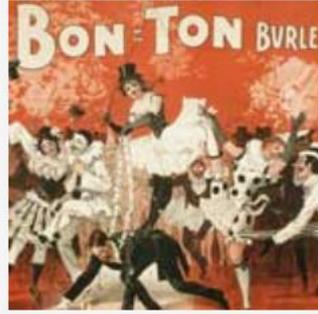
**COLLECTION**  
**Performing Arts Web  
Archive**

The Performing Arts Web Archive contains web-based content related to the Music Division's current special collections and rare material holdings. The goal of this web archive collection is to reflect, enhance, and...

**Collection Items:** [View](#) 69  
Items



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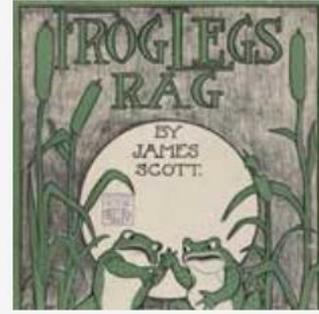


**COLLECTION**  
**Posters: Performing Arts Posters**  
Collection includes posters advertising individual plays and operettas, burlesque, vaudeville, and specialty acts, dance companies, extravaganzas produced by the Kiralfy Brothers, portraits of entertainers, and stock posters. Featured performers include Julia Arthur,...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
2,119 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Pre-1700 Musical Treasures: Manuscript and Print Collection**  
**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
243 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Ragtime**  
**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
178 Items



**COLLECTION**  
**Rhode Island Folklife Project Collection**  
American Folklife Center field project which documented ethnic, regional, and occupational traditions of Rhode Island, especially ethnic arts (African American, French-Canadian, Greek, Irish, Jamaican, Polish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Italian, Lithuanian, Narragansett, and others),...

**Collection Items:** [View](#)  
979 Items

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**COLLECTION**  
**Voices from the Dust Bowl: the Charles L. Todd and Robert Sonkin Migrant Worker Collection, 1940-1941**

Multi-format ethnographic field collection documenting the everyday life of residents of Farm Security Administration (FSA) migrant work camps in central California in 1940 and 1941. Consists of audio recordings, photographs, manuscript materials,...

**Collection Items:** [View 533 Items](#)



**COLLECTION**  
**William P. Gottlieb Collection**

Photographs made by writer-photographer William P. Gottlieb, from 1938 to 1948, often on assignment for the Washington Post, Down Beat magazine, and Record Changer. Images document jazz musicians and venues, primarily in...

**Collection Items:** [View 1,804 Items](#)



**COLLECTION**  
**Women's Suffrage in Sheet Music**

**Collection Items:** [View 214 Items](#)



**COLLECTION**  
**Woody Guthrie and the Archive of American Folk Song: Correspondence, 1940-1950**

American Memory web site that highlights letters between Woody Guthrie and staff of the Archive of American Folk Song (now the Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center) at the Library of...

**Collection Items:** [View 59 Items](#)

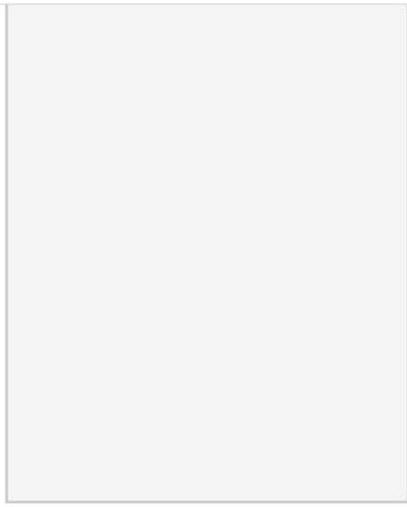
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ethnographic field collection documenting the everyday life of residents of Farm Security Administration (FSA) migrant work camps in central California in 1940 and 1941. Consists of audio recordings, photographs, manuscript materials,...

**Collection Items:** [View 533 Items](#)

assignment for the Washington Post, Down Beat magazine, and Record Changer. Images document jazz musicians and venues, primarily in...

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**Collection Items:** [View 59 Items](#)

**COLLECTION**  
**World War I Sheet Music**

**Collection Items:** [View 13,518 Items](#)

**COLLECTION**  
**Yiddish American Popular Sheet Music**

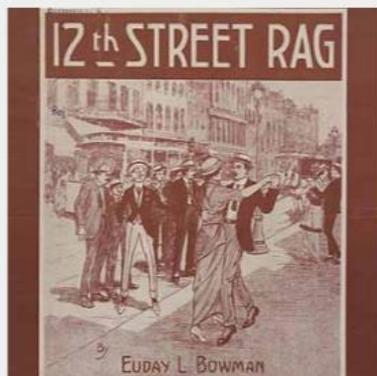
**Collection Items:** [View 1,342 Items](#)

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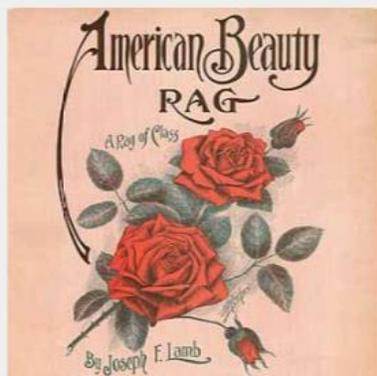
COLLECTION  
**Ragtime**

About this Collection Collection Items Articles and Essays

Featured Content



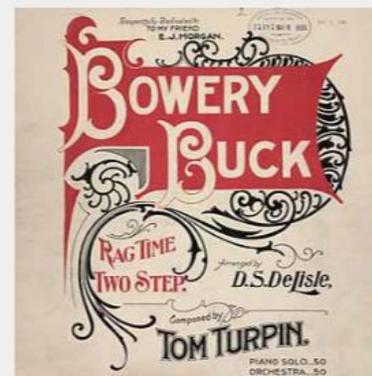
12th street rag / Euday Bowman



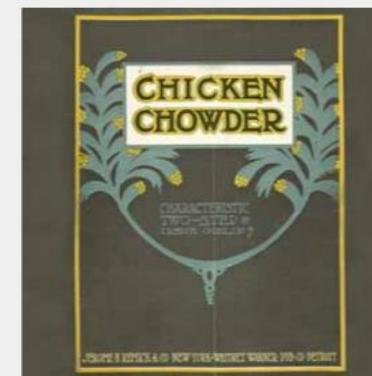
American Beauty Rag / Joseph F. (Joseph Francis) Lamb



The Baltimore blues / Henry Lodge



Bowery Buck / Tom Turpin



Chicken chowder / Irene Giblin



# COLLECTION Ragtime

About this Collection Collection Items Articles and Essays

Results: 1-25 of 178 | Refined by: Part of: Ragtime Available Online

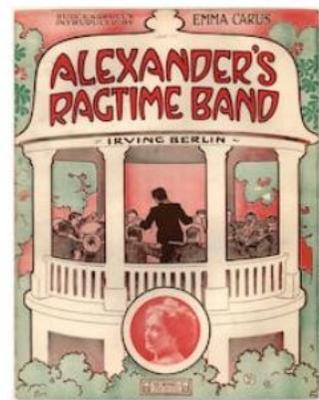
### Refine your results

- Available Online 178
  - All Items 191
- 
- Original Format**
- Notated Music 146
  - Audio Recording 19
  - Film, Video 10
  - Web Page 3
  - Book/Printed Material 2

- Online Format**
- Image 154
  - Audio 19
  - Video 9

## Collection Items

View List Go Sort By Select Go



**NOTATED MUSIC**  
**Alexander's ragtime band**  
 sheet music | 1 score | Sheet Music (Form). Sheet Music (Form).  
**Contributor:** Berlin, Irving - Ted Snyder Co., Inc  
**Date:** 1911  
**Resource:**  
[View 8 Images](#)

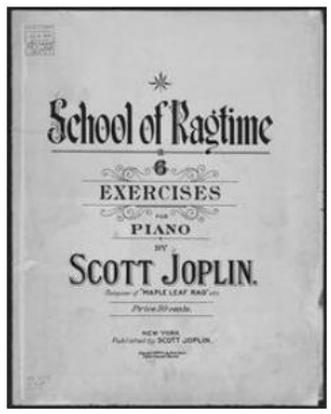
AUDIO RECORDING

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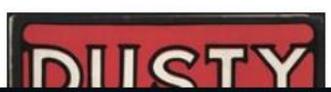
<b>Location</b>	
Washington D.C.	8
New York	7
Missouri	6
Midwest	4
St. Louis	3
United States	2
Lapeer	1
Chicago	1
Hawaii	1
Alabama	1
More Locations >>	



**NOTATED MUSIC**  
**School of ragtime: six exercises for piano**  
 Sheet music | Sheet Music (Form). Sheet Music (Form).  
**Contributor:** Joplin, Scott - Scott Joplin  
**Date:** 1908  
**Resource:**  
[View 4 Images](#)



**NOTATED MUSIC**  
**Blue ribbon rag**  
 sheet music | Sheet Music (Form). Sheet Music (Form).  
**Contributor:** J.F. Aufderheide - Aufderheide, May  
**Date:** 1910  
**Resource:**  
[View 6 Images](#)



**NOTATED MUSIC**  
**Dusty rag**

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# SCHOOL OF RAGTIME

BY

**SCOTT JOPLIN**

Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag."

REMARKS – What is scurrilously called ragtime is an invention that is here to stay. That is now conceded by all classes of musicians. That all publications masquerading under the name of ragtime are not the genuine article will be better known when these exercises are studied. That real ragtime of the higher class is rather difficult to play is a painful truth which most pianists have discovered. Syncopations are no indication of light or trashy music, and to shy bricks at "hateful ragtime" no longer passes for musical culture. To assist amateur players in giving the "Joplin Rags" that weird and intoxicating effect intended by the composer is the object of this work.

**Exercise No. 1.**

COLLECTION  
**Ragtime**

[About this Collection](#) [Collection Items](#) [Articles and Essays](#)

**Articles and Essays**

# Articles and Essays

Articles, essays, and examples of sheet music which all provide insight into the times and performance of ragtime.

**Expert Resources**

- Performing Arts Reading Room
- Collections with Notated Music
- Collections with Audio Recordings
- Collections with Film and Video

View   Sort By



**FILM, VIDEO**

## Bob Milne at the Library of Congress an oral history with Larry Appelbaum

videorecording | 1 digital video file (1 hr., 27 min.) : sd., col. | Interviewer: Larry Appelbaum; piano: Bob Milne. (Cast). Courtesy of Bob Milne. (Permission). Bob Milne, ragtime pianist, discusses and demonstrates ragtime piano music in an interview with Larry Appelbaum, Library of Congress. (Summary). Recorded in the Coolidge Auditorium, October 13, 2004. (Venue). Courtesy of Bob Milne. (Copyright Notice). Videorecording (Form).

**Contributor:** Library of Congress - Coolidge Auditorium (Library of Congress) - Milne, Bob, Pianist - Appelbaum, Larry

**Date:** 2004

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**FILM, VIDEO**



FILM, VIDEO  
**[Joshua Rifkin in an interview with David Sager]**

In an interview with David Sager and Loras Schissel, Library of Congress, pianist/conductor Joshua Rifkin discusses and demonstrates ragtime piano music performance practice. Interview. videorecording | 1 digital video file (1 hr., 24 min., 35 sec.) : sd., col. | Title supplied by cataloger. Interviewers: David Sager, Loras Schissel; pianist: Joshua Rifkin. Recorded in the Recording Laboratory, Motion Picture Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division,...

**Contributor:** Library of Congress - Sager, David - Schissel, Loras J. - Rifkin, Joshua  
**Date:** 2006



FILM, VIDEO  
**[Patricia Lamb Conn in an interview with David Sager]**

videorecording | 1 digital video file (1 hr., 11 min., 51 sec.) : sd., col. | videorecording | Title supplied by cataloger. Interviewers: David Sager, Loras Schissel; interviewee: Patricia Lamb Conn. Recorded in the Recording Laboratory, Motion Picture Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress, 2006 (Venue). Courtesy of Pat Lamb Conn. (Copyright Notice). In an interview with David Sager and Loras Schissel,...

**Contributor:** Library of Congress - Conn, Patricia Lamb - Sager, David - Schissel, Loras J. - Library of Congress. Recording Laboratory  
**Date:** 2006



FILM, VIDEO  
**[Bob Milne in concert at the Library of Congress]**

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ARTICLE

## History of Ragtime

Ragtime, a uniquely American, syncopated musical phenomenon, has been a strong presence in musical composition, entertainment, and scholarship for over a century. It emerged in its published form during the mid-1890s and quickly spread across the continent via published compositions. By the early 1900s ragtime flooded the music publishing industry. The popularity and demand for ragtime also boosted sale of pianos and greatly swelled...

ARTICLE

## Tremonisha

Scott Joplin composed three works for the stage. The first, The Ragtime Dance, depicted a typical African-American dance gathering; it was performed in 1899 at the Black 400 Club in Sedalia, Missouri. The second work, A Guest of Honor, about Booker T. Washington's dinner with Teddy Roosevelt at the White House, premiered in East St. Louis, Illinois, in 1903. Joplin took the production on...

ARTICLE

## Classic Rag

Ragtime music adapted to the unique style and invention of each composer and musician. Certain rags, however, particularly those by Scott Joplin and the composers who published with John Stark & Son, can be categorized as "classic." These instrumental rags fit a certain musical structure.

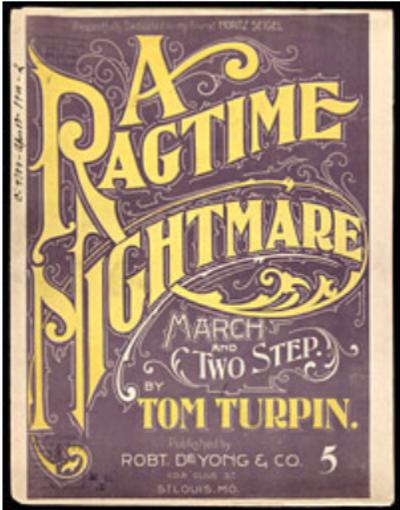
ARTICLE

## Sit Down, Shut Up, and Listen to Ragtime: Bob Milne and the Occupational Folklore of the Traveling Piano Player

Every group, from the smallest family to the largest ethnicity, has a repertoire of informally learned stories, sayings, customs, techniques, and expressive traditions. This material is called folklore. Folklore allows group members to recognize one another as

## ARTICLE

# History of Ragtime



[The Ragtime Nightmare](#) by Tom Turpin (St. Louis, MO: Robt. DeYoung & Co., 1900). Performing Arts Reading Room, Library of Congress.

Ragtime, a uniquely American, syncopated musical phenomenon, has been a strong presence in musical composition, entertainment, and scholarship for over a century. It emerged in its published form during the mid-1890s and quickly spread across the continent via published compositions. By the early 1900s ragtime flooded the music publishing industry. The popularity and demand for ragtime also boosted sale of pianos and greatly swelled the ranks of the recording industry. Ragtime seemed to emanate primarily from the southern and midwestern states with the majority of activity occurring in Missouri -- although the East and West coasts also had their share of composers and performers. Ragtime's popularity promptly spread to Europe and there, as in America, soon became a fad.

It is not easy to define ragtime. Like jazz, another distinctly American musical art form, ragtime's composers, practitioners, and admirers each see its boundaries differently. However, these groups are distinguished by subgroups of purists who generally agree on, and stand by, a precise definition:

Ragtime -- A genre of musical composition for the piano, generally in duple meter and containing a highly syncopated treble lead over a rhythmically steady bass. A ragtime composition is usually composed three or four contrasting sections or strains, each one being 16 or 32 measures in length.

This definition describes much of the music of the itinerant pianists who traversed the South and Midwest and eventually congregated in Missouri to produce an oeuvre of core ragtime compositions. These roving composers include Scott Joplin, Charles Hunter, Thomas Turpin, Louis Chauvin, Charles L. Johnson, and many others.

Some ragtime scholars point out that ragtime is composed chiefly for an audience -- a pianistic work not meant for dancing. It is a genre distinct from other types of syncopated musical compositions from about the same period -- for example, "coon songs" and cakewalks -- the latter especially composed for dancing.

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But our definition cannot be cut and dried, for "ragtime" once described the peppy, syncopated treatment of almost any type of music -- that is how it was known to the public.

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Scott Joplin, 1868-1917**

Biography. Biography. Scott Joplin's is the name perhaps most associated with ragtime. Born sometime between the summer of 1867 and mid-January 1868, Joplin's career took him from a modest homestead on the Texas-Arkansas border to New York's Tin Pan Alley New York City, where he would eventually try his luck with composers like a young Irving Berlin. Although he continued composing until just before...

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Ben Harney, 1872-1938**

Biography. Biography. Ben R. Harney has been credited as the musician who did the most to introduce ragtime to audiences throughout the world. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1871, Harney's racial origins have long been debated. Some people, among them Eubie Blake, claimed that he was a black man passing as white. Others maintained that Harney was a white man so thoroughly inspired by...

**BIOGRAPHY**

**John Stark, 1841-1927**

Biography. Biography. John Stillwell Stark was born in Kentucky in 1841. His family moved to Indiana, where he grew up on a farm.

**BIOGRAPHY**

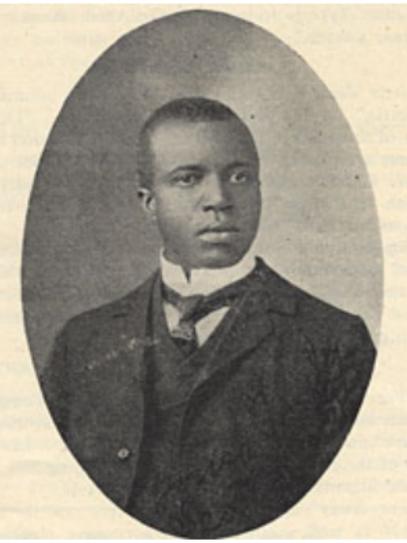
**Joseph Lamb, 1887-1960**

Biography. Biography. Joseph Lamb was born in Montclair, New Jersey, in December 1877. A family man who was an anomaly in the contemporary music world, Lamb shunned the ups and downs of show business for a steady job in business. Nevertheless, Lamb is remembered alongside Scott Joplin and James Scott as one of the three great ragtime proponents.

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BIOGRAPHIES

# Scott Joplin, 1868-1917



[Portrait of Scott Joplin], taken from *American Musician* (June 17, 1907). Performing Arts Reading Room, Library of Congress.

Scott Joplin's is the name perhaps most associated with ragtime. Born sometime between the summer of 1867 and mid-January 1868, Joplin's career took him from a modest homestead on the Texas-Arkansas border to New York's Tin Pan Alley New York City, where he would eventually try his luck with composers like a young Irving Berlin. Although he continued composing until just before his death in April 1917, Joplin's greatest fame came from his years in the Midwest where he was acknowledged as the "King of Ragtime."

Joplin enjoyed his greatest success in Sedalia, Missouri, where he studied music at George R. Smith College and played with several ensembles, among them the Queen City Cornet Band. He opened his own piano studio and taught and encouraged other composers whose names eventually joined his in ragtime history. These young talents included Arthur Marshall and Scott Hayden; Joplin collaborated with the former on the cakewalk "Swipesy" (1900) and the latter on the two-step "Sunflower Slow Drag" (1901). (Years later in New York, Joplin met and mentored another future ragtime great, Joseph Lamb.) Joplin's musical activities in Sedalia brought him in contact with the source of ragtime--piano playing in African-American social establishments. In fact, Joplin's engagements at the popular Maple Leaf Club inspired his most famous tune, "The Maple Leaf Rag" (1899).

Joplin's life spanned the unsettled post-Civil War years through much of World War I. His music embraced aspects of African-American popular heritage that thrived during that critical period; however, it also embraces elements from his formal musical training. For example, he found it perfectly reasonable to combine the syncopated rhythms of ragtime with the larger structures and forms of art music genres such as ballet and opera. For example, the form of the rag in Joplin's compositions was strict enough to be dubbed "classic," an epithet that both he and John Stark, his major publisher, employed to market their sheet music. Not only did the

term imply an accepted structure (see the essay on "The Classic Rag"), but it also helped ragtime to migrate from its earthy origins to the parlors of the respectable middle class.

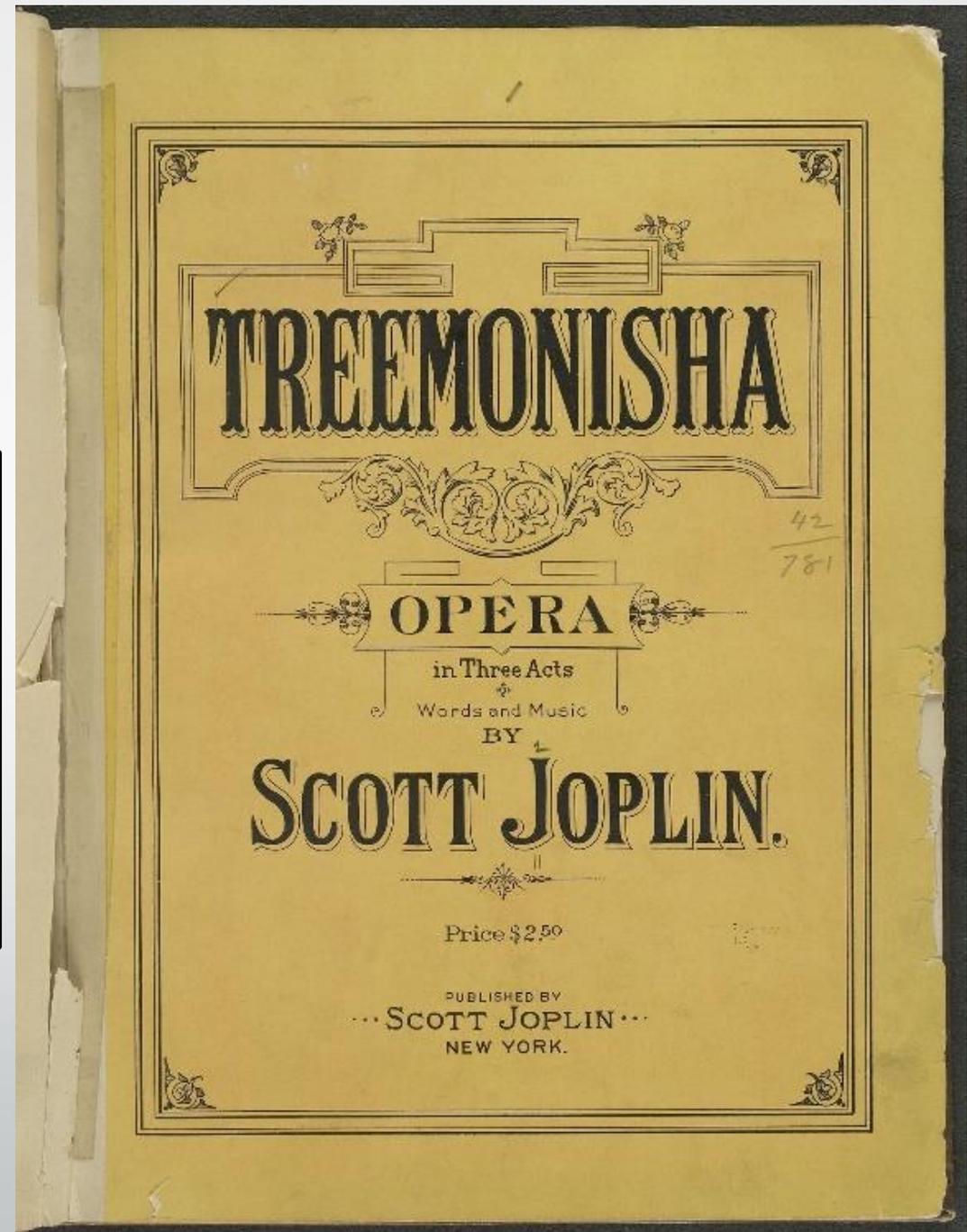
Joplin's theories about ragtime are stated eloquently in his self-published *School of Ragtime* (1908). Written in the style of an art music treatise, *School* demonstrates how serious

[www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033526](http://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033526)

## Scott Joplin's opera "Treemonisha" (1911)

Treemonisha, an 18 year old African-American girl, is the only literate person in her community and encourages them to turn their back on superstition and embrace formal education.

- Questions:
1. How can education benefit communities that have been historically excluded from that system?
  2. What problems can't be solved through education and why?



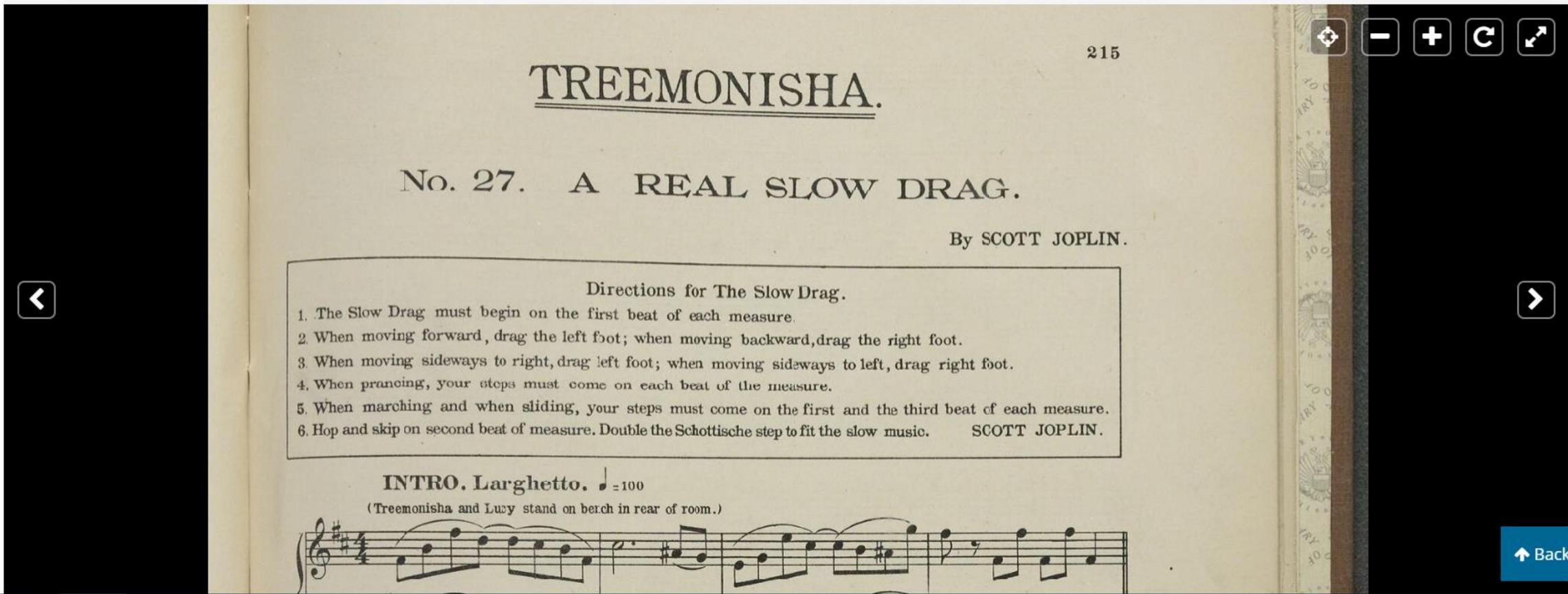
# Image 223 of Treemonisha

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218 (All stop, put right hand to ear and listen to music.)

slid - ing on-ward, lis - ten to..... that rag.

slid - ing on-ward, lis - ten to..... that rag.

*cresc.* *f*

(All hop.) (All skip.) (Slow drag forward.)

Hop and skip, now do that slow,.....

🔄 - + ↻ ↗



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# "Maple Leaf Rag" (1899) by Scott Joplin

1. What does 2/4 mean? Hint: It is not a fraction. However, fractions are used to understand how notes relate to each other within the parameters set by the 2 and the 4. (arrows show syncopation, a fundamental concept in ragtime music)
2. Without trying to read the notes, look at shapes and identify patterns. Patterns can help you understand the form of the piece. Where are patterns repeated and when do they change?
3. When are both "hands" playing together and when are they playing alone? Changes in texture often indicate a transition.
4. Where is there contrary motion? Where is the motion static? What mood is created by each?
5. Listen to a recording of the "Maple Leaf Rag" and discover whether or not your observations are audible. (audio available at [www.freemusicarchive.org](http://www.freemusicarchive.org))

[www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033265/](http://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200033265/)

## MAPLE LEAF RAG.

BY SCOTT JOPLIN.

Tempo di marc

The image shows a page of musical notation for "Maple Leaf Rag" by Scott Joplin. The score is in 2/4 time and features a piano introduction. The first system is highlighted with a red box, and the second system is highlighted with a green box. Blue arrows point to syncopated notes in the first system. A blue box highlights the piano introduction in the third system. The score includes first and second endings in the final system.



**Thank you!**

**Questions? Post them in the chat box!**

