

Sources: [https://imslp.org/wiki/Cleopha_\(Joplin%2C_Scott\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Cleopha_(Joplin%2C_Scott))

(Information from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_compositions_by_Scott_Joplin)

Scott Joplin was born in Arkansas, near Texarkana, around 1867 (or * between June 1867 and January 1868 at Linden, Texas?) and was a street musician before settling in Sedalia, Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri, and finally New York City, where he died in 1917. He was an American composer and pianist who gained fame for his ragtime compositions and was dubbed "The King of Ragtime." During his career, Joplin wrote over 40 original ragtime pieces, a ragtime ballet, and two operas. One of his first pieces, "Maple Leaf Rag" (1899), is considered the archetypal rag and influenced subsequent rag composers thanks to its rhythmic patterns, melody lines, and harmony.

His finances were precarious throughout his career, despite a steady income from the "Maple Leaf Rag." Joplin had most of his works published by John Stark of Sedalia, Missouri, although he also used other, lesser-known companies, including his own "Scott Joplin Music Publishing Company." His first opera, A Guest of Honor, was lost after an unsuccessful tour in 1903. After the death of his widow Lottie in 1953, a number of manuscripts of unpublished works were lost, and no copies are known to exist.

When Joplin was learning to play the piano, ragtime was condemned in serious musical circles for its association with the vulgar and demented songs of Tin Pan Alley. As a composer, Joplin refined ragtime, developing it from the dance music played by pianists in brothels in cities like St. Louis.

"Cleopha" is a classic piano ragtime composition by Scott Joplin written in 1902, at the same time as "The Entertainer." It was one of Joplin's simpler and less famous ragtime scores, but is fascinating nonetheless.

It is subtitled "March and two step," a dance form that was popular until about 1911, and a common style among rags written at that time.

The A and B sections are in the key of F major. The "A" section makes intense use of the piano's reverb pedal, and the basses boom like thunder. The trio ("C" section) and the last measures to the end are in the key of Bb major.

The original copyright was registered in 1902; it ended in 2017. The sheet music was published by the S. Simos Music Company of St. Louis.

Title:	Cleopha
Genre:	Ragtime (March and 2-Step)
Year	1902
Form :	Intro A A B B A C C D D
keys:	F/F/F/Bb/Bb...
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Own experience and remarks

I have worked out this ragtime from the above source and arranged it using my favorite music program MuseScore ver. 3.6.2. MuseScore contains the GeneralMIDI-software synthesizer "FluidSynth" with the GM standard soundfont MuseScore_General_HQ.sf3 and the drum special synthesizer "Zerberus" (MS-Drumline-PlugIn) as an integral part.

See:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MuseScore>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FluidSynth>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SoundFont>

MuseScore was programmed by Werner Schweer, Nicolas Froment and Thomas Bonte (Germany/Belgium), is available as open source software (GNU General Public License) without restrictions and runs under Windows, MacOS, Linux. It is available at www.musescore.org incl. sound-font and manual download for free for everyone.

I can unreservedly recommend this really powerful software with its excellent graphical user interface. This OpenSource program easily beats even commercial software like "Finale" (own test!). What I can unfortunately no longer recommend without reservation is registering as a user at musescore.com (but that's another story).

To be honest, I am a bit proud of this arrangement and especially of the sound of an "old" piano. I call the concept for my sound remix "Raumklang +", and I didn't invent it's principles myself, but adapted it for the MuseScore software. Please listen to the attached .mp3 file through a good pair of headphones. I believe that you will not be able to distinguish the sound of the well-accented playback of the GM synthesizer from a "real" piano - except by the constancy in the playback tempo (which a human could not keep like that). But that, too, is programmable.

Let me know how you like my sound mix and what you think of it?

CU, have fun and: Let the music out! (from the prison in the old library shelves!).

With best regards

FarrierPete