**Scott Joplin** (* between June 1867 and January 1868 at Linden, Texas; † April 1, 1917 in New York City, New York) was an American composer and classically trained pianist. More conclusive than other composers of ragtime, Joplin, who is considered the "perfecter of this style", combined elements of the Romantic piano tradition with African American folklore to create powerful miniatures. In addition to some eighty rags, Joplin has also written stage works. As 2017 marks the end of one hundred years of copyright protection, Joplin's work is now "In Public Domain".

"The Entertainer" is a 1902 classic piano rag written by Scott Joplin. It was sold first as sheet music, and in the 1910s as piano rolls that would play on player pianos. The first recording was by blues and ragtime musicians the Blue Boys in 1928, played on mandolin and guitar. It is sub-titled "A Rag Time Two Step", which was a form of dance popular until about 1911, and a style which was common among rags written at the time.

In the June 7, 1903, St. Louis Globe-Democrat, contemporary composer Monroe H. Rosenfeld described "The Entertainer" as "the best and most euphonious" of Joplin's compositions to that point. "It is a jingling work of a very original character, embracing various strains of a retentive character which set the foot in spontaneous action and leave an indelible imprint on the tympanum." Suggested by the rag's dedication to "James Brown and his Mandolin Club", author Rudi Blesh wrote that "some of the melodies recall the pluckings and the fast tremolos of the little steel-stringed plectrum instruments". Stark issued an arrangement of the piece for two mandolins and a guitar.

The copyright on "The Entertainer" was registered December 29, 1902, along with two other Joplin rags, "A Breeze from Alabama" and "Elite Syncopations", all three of which were published by John Stark & Son of St. Louis, Missouri. The centerpiece of the original cover art featured a minstrel show caricature of an African-American man in formal attire on a theater stage.

As one of the classics of ragtime, it returned to international prominence as part of the ragtime revival in the 1970s, when it was used as the theme music for the 1973 Oscar-winning film The Sting. Composer and pianist Marvin Hamlisch's adaptation reached #3 on the Billboard pop chart and spent a week at #1 on the easy listening chart in 1974. The Sting was set in the 1930s, a full generation after the end of ragtime's mainstream popularity, thus giving the inaccurate impression that ragtime music was popular at that time.

The New York Times wrote, "the whole nation has begun to take notice." Thanks to the film and its score, Joplin's work became appreciated in both the popular and classical music worlds, becoming (in the words of music magazine Record World), the "classical phenomenon of the decade." In the United States, "The Entertainer" is one of many songs commonly played by ice cream trucks to attract attention.

The Recording Industry Association of America ranked it #10 on its "Songs of the Century" list.

| | |
|---|---|
| Title: | The Entertainer |
| Genre: | Ragtime ( Two-Step ) |
| Year | 1902 |
| Form: | Intro–AA–BB–A–CC–Intro2–DD. |
| Keys: | CC-CC-C-FF-CC |
| License: | for Arrangement and Sound-Remix © CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0 |
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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: Set the music free! (from the prison in the old library shelves!).

**With best regards**

*FarrierPete*