

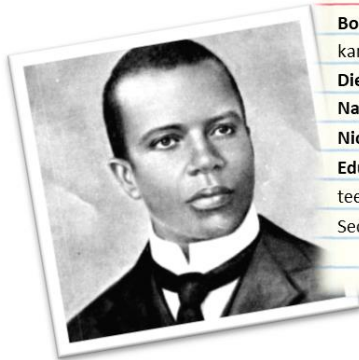


SLSO At Home Learning

Maple Leaf Rag

Listen to Scott Joplin’s Maple Leaf Rag. Do you think this is an example of pop music or classical music? Scott Joplin, the King of Ragtime, lived right here in St. Louis, MO. In fact, his house was only a few blocks east of Powell Hall. Ragtime is a genre or style of music characterized by its unique blend of a European classical style and African harmony and rhythm. Maple Leaf Rag, named after a club in Sedalia, MO, was one of Joplin’s most famous rags. He wrote the piece in 1899.

Share the following information about Scott Joplin. Then discuss how someone living in Sedalia, MO in the 1800s would have European and African influences in his music.



Born: Late 1860’s somewhere near the border of Texas and Arkansas
Died: April 1, 1917
Nationality: American
Nickname: The King of Ragtime
Education: Joplin was introduced to music at a young age. As a teenager he worked as a traveling musician before settling in Sedalia, MO to study music at George R. Smith College.



Joplin in St. Louis: Joplin moved to St. Louis in 1901. His house is now a Missouri State Park. You can visit it just a few blocks east of Powell Hall on Delmar.

Classical or Pop?: Joplin, the King of Ragtime, wanted to be a successful classical composer. Today his piano rags are programmed on piano recitals all around the world alongside the music of famous Classical composers like Chopin and Bach.

Spotify Playlist: The Entertainer, The Cascades, Treemonisha



Ragtime: a genre or style of music characterized by its unique blend of a European classical style with African American harmony and rhythm. Syncopated rhythms, a strict form, and a steady duple meter like a march are all characteristics of this popular musical style.

Maple Leaf Rag: Named for a social club in Sedalia, MO, Maple Leaf Rag was completed in 1899. This is Joplin’s most recognized composition, followed a few years later by The Entertainer. By 1909 Joplin had sold approximately a half-million copies of the music. His royalty was one-cent per copy sold.





St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

stéphane denève : music director

The following listening map outlines the form of [Maple Leaf Rag](#). In music, **form** refers to the structure of a musical composition. A musical composition is often created with different sections. These sections are labeled with upper case letters, for example the “A Section.” Each section has different musical ideas, and often composers will repeat certain sections. The form of *Maple Leaf Rag* (AABBACDD) closely resembles the classic European march style. Follow along with the listening map as you listen to *Maple Leaf Rag*.



Approximate timings	B = 0:48 – 1:08	C = 1:49 – 2:08
A = 0:00 – 0:26	B = 1:09 – 1:27	C = 2:09 – 2:29
A = 0:27 – 0:47	A = 1:28 – 1:48	D = 2:30 – 2:49
		D = 2:50 – 3:16

