

Ragtime is a genre or style of music characterized by its unique blend of European classical style and African harmony and rhythm.



Listen to Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag*. Do you think this is an example of popular music or classical music? Scott Joplin, the "King of Ragtime," lived right here in St. Louis, Missouri. In fact, his house still stands only a few blocks east of Powell Hall, home of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. In the 19th century, Ragtime was a style of popular music. Joplin wrote *Maple Leaf Rag* in 1899. Named after a club in Sedalia, Missouri, it is one of his most famous rags. Scott Joplin was so famous for his rags, he was like the Beyoncé of the late 19th century.

View these [Google Slides](#) to learn more about Scott Joplin. How do you think that someone living in Missouri in the late 1800s could have both European and African influences in their music?

Listening Map

The following listening map illustrates the form of *Maple Leaf Rag*. In music, the word form refers to the structure of a musical composition. It is the sequence of different sections, each containing different musical ideas. We can label these sections with uppercase letters and refer to them using those letters: for example, "Section A." Composers create patterns within a composition by choosing to repeat certain sections. The form of *Maple Leaf Rag* (AABBACCDD) closely resembles that of a European march. Follow along with the listening map as you listen to *Maple Leaf Rag*.

