

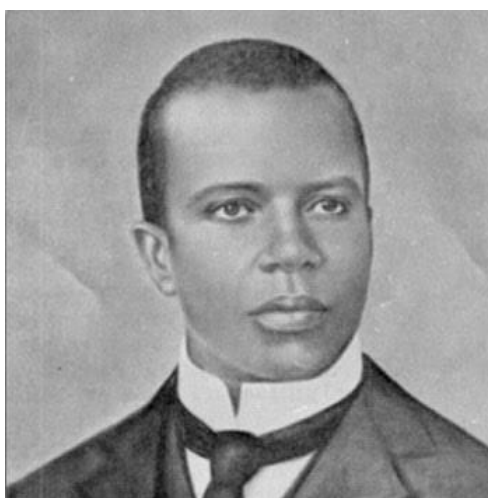
No-one knows for sure exactly when Scott Joplin was born. According to the United States census taken in July 1870, Scott Joplin was two years old. And no one is sure where Joplin was born, either — it was probably in northeast Texas.



Use the QR code to listen to Maple Leaf Rag.

Musician

Scott Joplin



Scott Joplin was an American composer and pianist. He became very famous for his ragtime music. People called him the "King of Ragtime." One of his first and most popular songs was the "Maple Leaf Rag." This song became the first big hit in ragtime music and helped make the style of music popular.

Making Connections ...

Ragtime uses syncopated rhythms — the accents in the melody are shifted away from the strong beats.



Use this QR code to listen to Elite Syncopations.

Scott Joplin's father was born into slavery in North Carolina. Both his parents were musical. He taught himself to play the piano.



Use the QR code to listen to The Entertainer.

of the Month

Use the QR code to listen to Pineapple Rag.



As a teenager, Joplin started traveling. In Missouri, he played piano in saloons; for the 1893 World's Fair, he headed to Chicago, and played the cornet in a band. After spending some time in college, Joplin moved on to St. Louis, the hotbed of ragtime music. Eventually, he lived in New York City.

