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Introducing ragtime

Ragtime is a musical style that originated from the African-American communities in the 1890s. It features syncopated rhythms against an accented bass line. Probably the most famous rag is *The Entertainer* by Scott Joplin.



Can you find a recording online of Scott Joplin himself playing *The Entertainer*? How is the recording different to the arrangement below?

What is the musical form of this piece? Write in 'I' for the introduction, then indicate where sections A and B are.

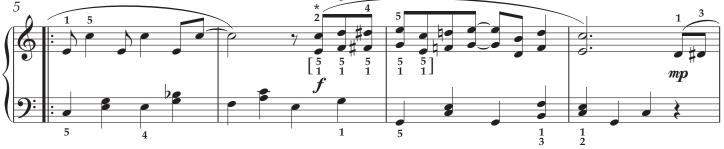
Clap these rhythms, then make up a musical motif using each rhythm.

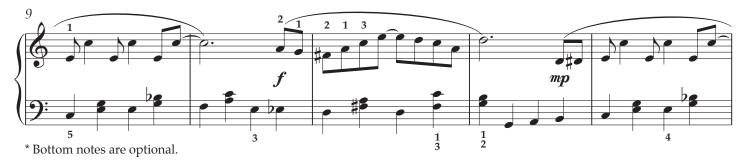


Repertoire

The Entertainer







Theory

Simple and compound time

Simple time signatures have beats that can be divided in two. Compound time signatures have beats that are dotted crotchets. So $\frac{6}{8}$ is compound duple (two dotted crotchets), $\frac{9}{8}$ is compound triple (three dotted crotchets) and $\frac{12}{8}$ is compound quadruple (four dotted crotchets).

This table covers the six most common simple and compound time signatures. Can you fill in the missing information?

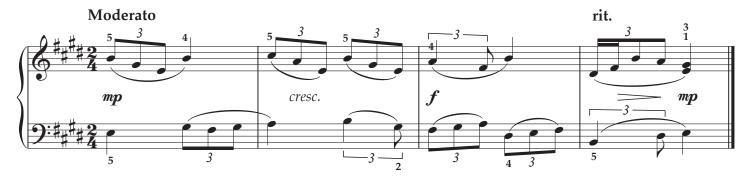
	Simple	Compound	Write a one-bar rhythm in simple time	Write a one-bar rhythm in compound time
Duple (2 in a bar)	2 4			
Triple (3 in a bar)		9 8		
Quadruple (4 in a bar)				

Here are two pieces, one in $\frac{2}{4}$ (simple duple) and one in $\frac{6}{8}$ (compound duple). What do you notice? Why are both called 'duple' time signatures?

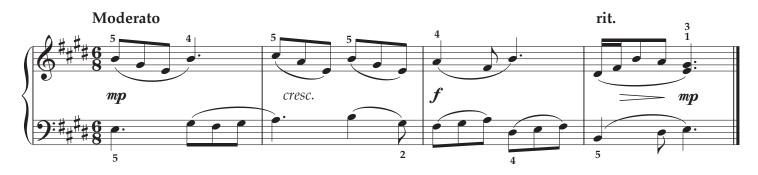


Two-four

Heather Hammond









This can be played as a solo or as a duet for two pianos. Try recording yourself and then performing it as a duet! When playing as a duet, listen carefully, maintain the pulse, and bring out the melody within your part.

