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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.



### Challenge

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



### Activity

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

Scott Joplin

Arr. Heather Hammond

Not fast

\* Bottom notes are optional.



## 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)	$\frac{2}{4}$			
Triple (3 in a bar)		$\frac{9}{8}$		
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?



## Quick learn

## Two-four

Heather Hammond

**Moderato** **rit.**

## Six-eight

**Moderato** **rit.**



Activity

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.



Repertoire

# Gospel Medley Piano 2

Traditional  
Arr. Heather Hammond

Moderato

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of six systems of two staves each. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The score includes various musical notations such as chords, single notes, and slurs. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte). Performance instructions include 'rit.' (ritardando) and 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The piece concludes with a final chord and a fermata.