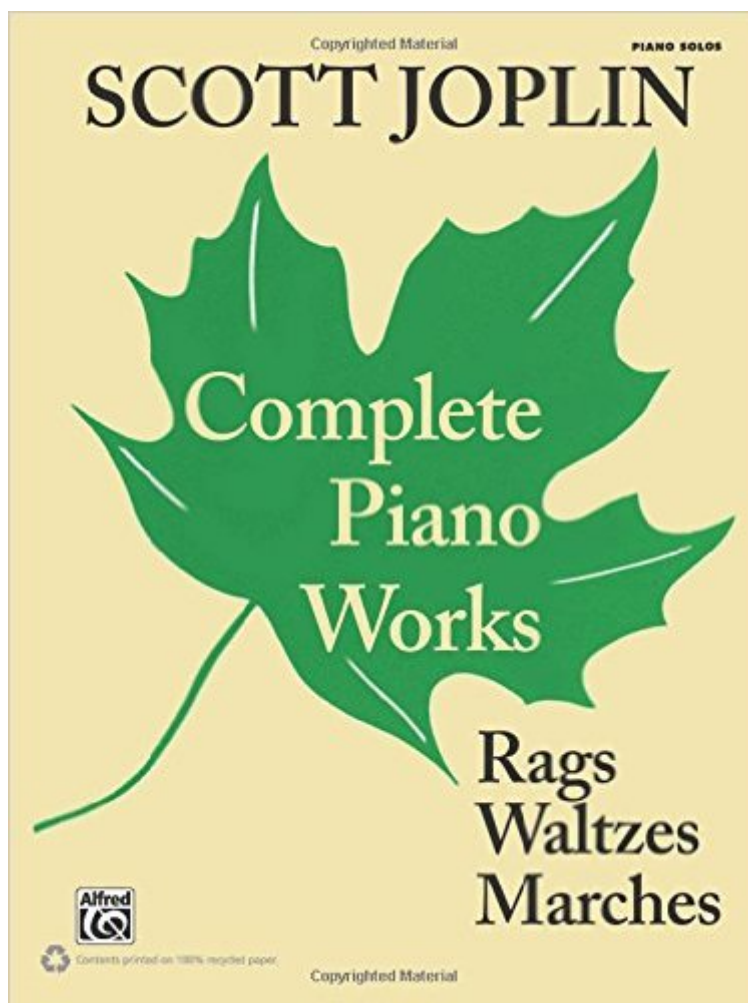


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Scott Joplin -- Complete Piano Works: Rags, Waltzes, Marches



Synopsis

As the undisputed "King of Ragtime Writers," Scott Joplin (1868--1917) composed many of the best-loved and most popular compositions of the ragtime era. His works include not only classic rags, but marches, waltzes, and cakewalks of incredible beauty that have stood the test of time. This book features Joplin's complete works for piano, in their original editions. Produced in cooperation with the New York Public Library, this comprehensive sheet music collection also includes an introduction by Vera Brodsky Lawrence and an historical essay by noted ragtime scholar Rudi Blesh. This 376-page book features lay-flat binding designed to stay open on a piano music rack.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (29 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

When the movie "The Sting" revived Scott Joplin's popularity lots of editions of sheet music and collections of his music came out. I bought a nice spiral bound edition of his complete works that I have used ever since, but it finally has fallen to pieces, so I had to get a new collection. After looking at several, I settled on this for many reasons. First, it is complete. It does not have any of his songs (but these are available in a second volume), which I miss, but it clearly states that this is works for piano. And everything I am aware of is in here. This is important. Some are just collections of rags and leave out vital works such as the lovely waltz "Bethena". Second, I love the large format and the clear printing. This is far superior to the collection I had before (which is no longer available anyway). Too many editions now save money by printing in a smaller format that is really just about note paper size. It is harder to read music in the smaller format and this is large and durably bound.

This is an edition that is meant for actual use and to last a long time. Third, this edition includes black and white reproductions of the cover art of the sheet music. This is surprisingly nice for students to see and get a feel for the culture of the time the music was written and popular. Fourth, the introductory essays provide a great deal of historical background that students will find most useful in understanding the music and Joplin's context in the music of his time (and ours). The appendixes and index also provide valuable background material that will expand the aficionado's appreciation of the piano rolls created of Joplin's music, old 78 rpm recordings of his works, and a few of the 33 1/3 LP records of Joplin's music.

This indispensable edition of Scott Joplin's piano music was first published in 1971 as "The Collected Works of Scott Joplin" by the New York Public Library. In 1981, the publisher secured permission from the holder of the copyright to publish three works left out of the 1971 edition. Accordingly, the title of the book changed to "Scott Joplin -- Complete Piano Works: Rags, Waltzes, Marches". As such, the book went through several reprintings before going out of print briefly and being reissued in 2010. I have used and treasured this "Complete Edition" for many years and reviewed it here on , at long last, in 2009, before the volume was reissued. Craig Matteson's fine review below reminded me of the volume. The remainder of this review consists of my 2009 review of this collection of Joplin. In that old printing or this new one, the volume is a must for lovers of American piano music. This wonderful collection of the piano music of Scott Joplin (1867 - 1917) was originally published by the New York Public Library in 1971 and edited by Vera Brodsky Lawrence. With additions in 1981, the book includes the score for virtually all of Joplin's solo piano works, including 41 "original works", 7 "collaborative works", 3 "miscellaneous works", and 3 additional rags added to the volume in 1981 when permission was secured from the holder of the copyright. I have had this volume for many years and continue to study and learn from it, in playing familiar works and learning new pieces. The volume is an endless source of delight and inspiration.

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