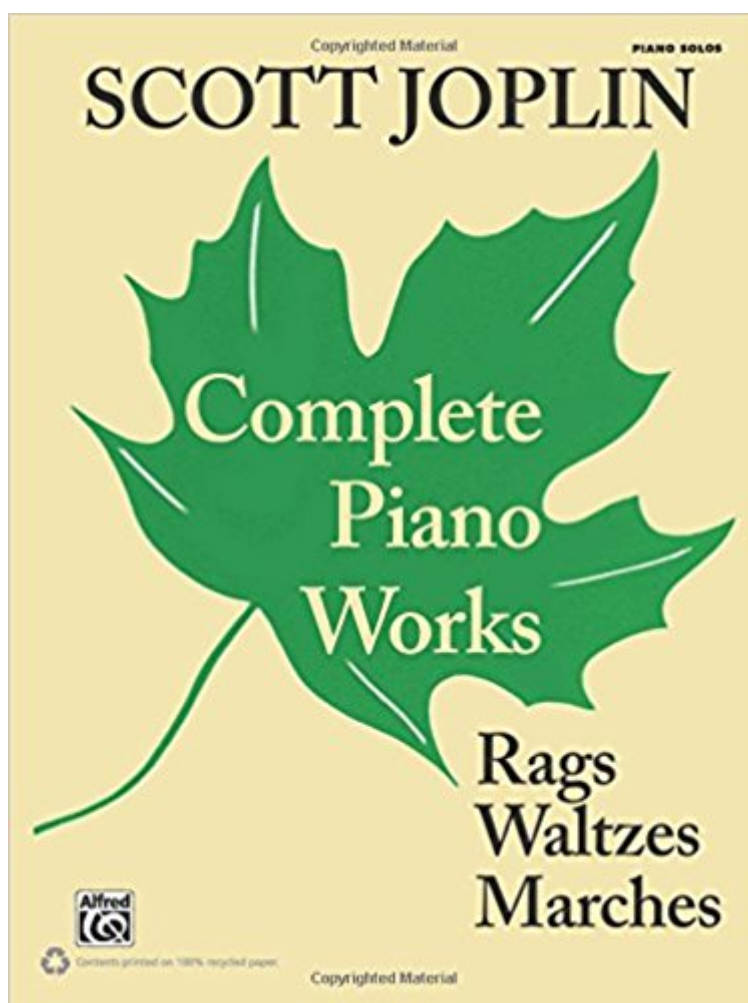


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Scott Joplin -- Complete Piano Works: Rags, Waltzes, Marches



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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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. The index covers the works in this, volume I, and the works contained in volume II. I guess this is a clever way of interesting us in reaching out for volume II! You can certainly find cheaper and less comprehensive editions, but I would encourage you to go with this one. For what you get the price is very reasonable. I find it a necessary part of my music library and I hope you will add it to yours. Reviewed by Craig Matteson, Saline, MI

Despite Scott Joplin's humble beginnings (as well as ragtime's humble beginnings), he became one of the most instantly recognizable and most beloved composers in the history of the United States. Now distributed by Alfred Music Publishing, the New York Public Library's soft-bound edition of the complete piano works of Joplin is still the standard. I purchased this after the binding on my decades-old copy finally gave up the ghost. This copy opens and stays open more easily without putting stress on the binding than the older versions of this edition, so I'm confident that it will stand up to use by myself and my university music theory students. Vera Brodsky Lawrence's editorial work and Rudi Blesh's introduction now date back three decades, but still are quite valuable. If you are thinking about buying several of Scott Joplin's piano pieces, it makes a great deal of sense economically to buy this Complete Piano Works edition. Pianists who are familiar only with Joplin's rags will be pleasantly surprised at the musical richness and accessibility of the waltzes. A highly recommended collection!

This is a complete--and very lengthy--collection of Joplin's piano pieces. The pieces are unabridged and are in an easy-to-read font. An added bonus is the original covers from all of his pieces. This collection also contains his collaborative works along with an addenda (only available in this fourth printing), which contains his Fig Leaf Rag, Rose Leaf Rag, and Searchlight Rag. Thus, the title is now The Complete Works of Scott Joplin instead of The Collected Works of Scott Joplin, as mentioned in the Editor's Note. There is quite a bit of reference material in the front of the book about Scott Joplin and his music, which takes up about 1/10 of the book. The Editor's Note by editor

Vera Brodsky Lawrence discusses certain pieces and their publications. Ragtime scholar Rudi Blesh's historical essay titled "Scott Joplin: Black-American Classicist" is also included. Both offer unique insights into Joplin. The only setbacks are the weight and the black and white printing (this diminishes the glory of his cover pages). Otherwise, the collection is very durable and the music can be played for years to come. Oh, and for all the eco-friendly people out there, this book is printed with 100% recycled paper, as stated in a tiny font on the bottom left corner on the cover. (Zoom in on the picture)

Fine selection of piano works by an American master.

I took the advice of some earlier reviewer and had a spiral binding put in at my local print shop. Now it lies flat on the music stand--so much easier to manage!

Having fun trying to learn.

It is the same old book from my childhood. I abandoned my old one prior to moving overseas, and I am grateful to have it back again! Actually, I would give it 4.5 stars, because another reviewer said it stays open great on the piano, but it doesn't really do that so well. It is a big book though, so I was skeptical it would really stay open. I think they could engineer it so that it would stay open, or you can beat the heck out of the binding, and quickly make it old like my old copy was!

A fine & very complete collection. I also think the title pages before each piece is nice to have. My only problem is with the binding. No it's not falling apart, but it sure is hard to let it stand open by its own when playing. I wish this book came in spiral binding. I actually have been trying to get this book spiral binded, but staples store doesn't do spiral binding. Hopefully Office Depot does..

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