



- While his year of birth is unknown, available documents point to a birth between June 1867 and mid-January 1868, probably in northeast Texas.
- When he was still a young child, Joplin's family left the farm on which his father (formerly a slave) worked as a laborer. They moved to the newly established town of Texarkana.
- Joplin's talent was noticed in Texarkana by a local German-born music teacher Julius Weiss who instructed him further by placing special emphasis on European art forms, including opera.
- As a person, he was intelligent, well-mannered and well-spoken. He was generous with his time and was willing to assist and instruct younger musicians. He had a profound belief in the importance of education.
- During his career, Joplin wrote over 40 original ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet, and two operas. One of his first pieces, the "Maple Leaf Rag" (1899), has been recognized as the archetypal rag and influenced subsequent rag composers. He has been dubbed, "The King of Ragtime".



Listen to *Maple Leaf Rag*

\* Search for this title on a music streaming platform (YouTube, Spotify, etc.) to find a recording