

LEARN TO PLAY THE ALFRED WAY

Ragtime Piano

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The Sound and Feeling of Ragtime

A few basic rhythm patterns create the basis of the sound and feeling of Ragtime music. After mastering these patterns, all Ragtime music will be easy and fun to play.

All of the music in this collection is in $\frac{4}{4}$ or C time. In either you may count four beats in each measure.

The down up arrows ($\uparrow\downarrow$) show the motion of your foot tapping the beats.

1. Count the 1 & 2 &'s while tapping your foot.
2. Clap the notes while counting. You may continue to tap your foot.

In Ragtime music two notes are very often tied together. A tie — is a curved line that connects two notes of the same pitch.

1. Count the 1 & 2 &'s. Count the tied note (3) softly.
2. Clap the notes while counting. Count the tied note (3) softly. You should not clap the tied note (3).

The introduction to THE ENTERTAINER uses this rhythm.

1. Count the 1 & 2 &'s. Count the tied note (3) softly.
2. Clap the notes while counting. You should not clap on (3).
3. Look at the music and play the right hand alone.
4. Look at the music and play the left hand alone.
5. Look at the music and play both hands together.

Another tied rhythm used in ragtime music is:

1. Count the 1 & 2 &'s. Count the tied note softly.
2. Clap the notes while counting.

This example is also from THE ENTERTAINER.

1. Play the right hand alone.
2. Play both hands together.