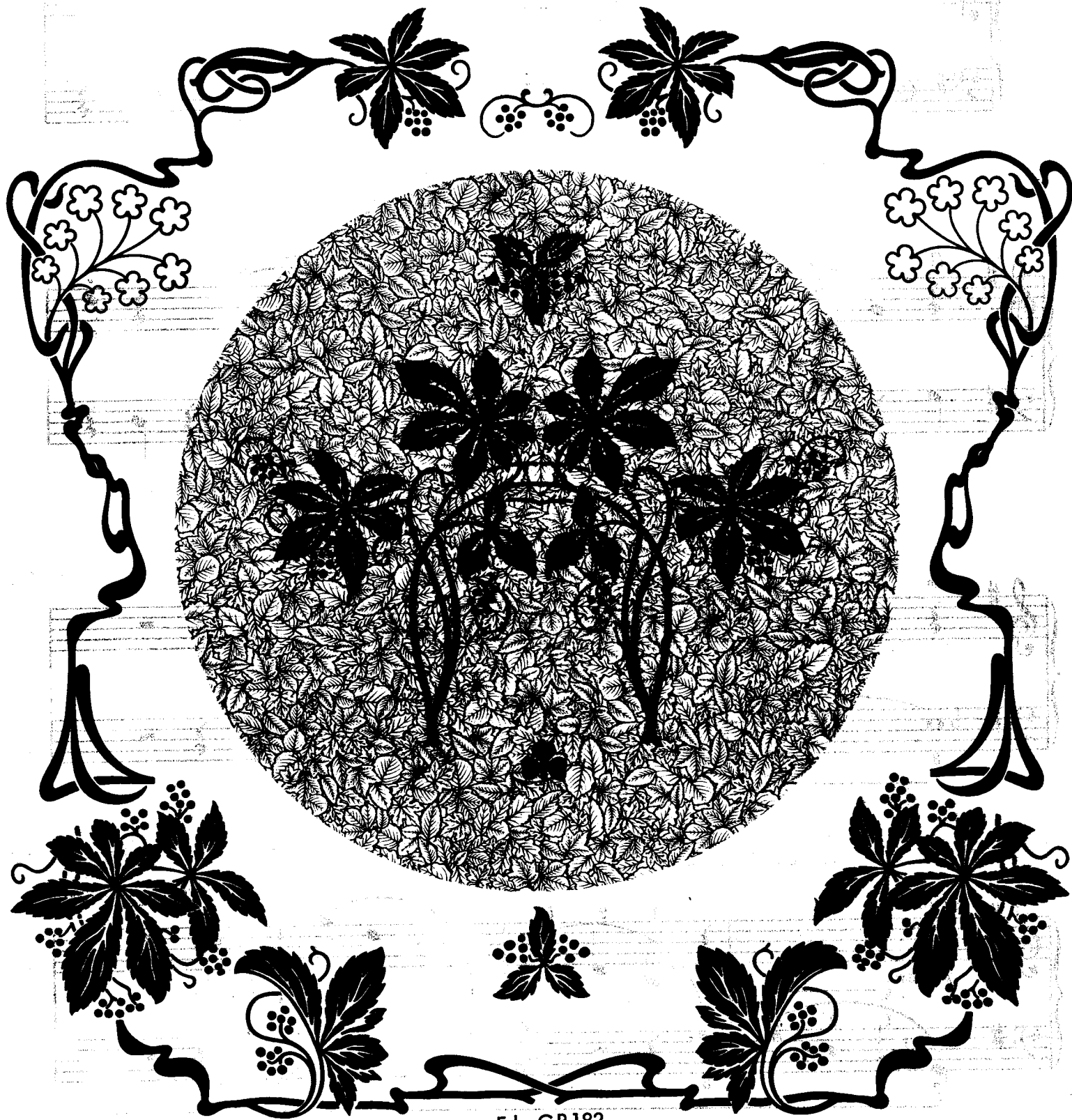


MAPLE LEAF RAG

BY
SCOTT JOPLIN

ARRANGED BY
JAMES BASTIEN



Ed. GP 182

95c

GWM

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Recital April 23, 1978

MAPLE LEAF RAG

Simplified Version

SCOTT JOPLIN

Arranged by James Bastien

M.M. ♩ = 108

Bright march tempo

Handwritten: *legato*

Chords: G, D7

Handwritten: *f*

Handwritten: *staccato*

Handwritten: *sempre stacc.*

Chords: G, D7

Chords: Eb, D, Eb, D

Handwritten: *Don't press too quickly.*

Handwritten: *Not too quickly.*

Chords: Gm

Handwritten: *Soft*

Handwritten: *peresc. r.k.*

Handwritten: *medium*

Handwritten: *loud*

Handwritten: *8va*

C#dim7

f

G

5

2 3 1

Eb

G

D7

G

5

più f

C#dim7

G

1

Eb

G

1.

D7

G

5

2.

D7

G

To next strain

3.

D7

G

Fine

4

Right hand is too weak -

D7 5

3 1 2 5 4

G

3 1 2 5 4

D7

3 5 1 2 4 3 5 4 4 3

G

2 1 1 2 5 4

Wipe

Right hand should play louder.

Scott Joplin

Ragtime music is basically a syncopated, rhythmic melody set against a steady accented beat in the bass. The ragtime craze swept the country during the Gay Nineties, and Scott Joplin became known as the "King of Ragtime." Joplin, a black musician thought to have been born in Texarkana, Texas in 1868, came from a musical family. His mother sang and played the banjo, his father played the violin and his brother played the guitar. When his father bought a square grand piano, Scott taught himself how to play. Later, he took lessons from a local German musician, and in his teens he became an itinerant musician. When he was 17, Joplin went to St. Louis where he played in the "honky-tonks" on Chestnut and Market Streets. Joplin traveled to Chicago for the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 and there met Otis Saunders who first persuaded him to write down and publish some of the rags he was playing in the clubs. "Original Rags" (1899) was Joplin's first published piano rag. In the same year he published his famous "Maple Leaf Rag," named for the Maple Leaf Club where he was playing in Sedalia, Missouri. After this huge success, Joplin continued writing and published 39 of his piano rags, some of the most popular being:

- Peacherine Rag (1901)
- The Easy Winners (1901)
- The Entertainer (1902)
- Rose Leaf Rag (1907)
- Fig Leaf Rag (1908)
- Wall Street Rag (1909)
- Stoptime Rag (1910)
- Scott Joplin's New Rag (1912)
- Magnetic Rag (1914)

After 1909 Joplin lived in New York and tried to pursue the composition of ragtime opera. However, his attempts at this form of music were unsuccessful. Extremely disappointed and disillusioned by failure, Joplin's mind began to fail and he died on April 1, 1917.

Ragtime was commercially exploited by tin-pan alley and eventually died out just before World War I. Recently it has enjoyed a revival, especially the ever-powerful and entertaining Scott Joplin piano rags. Joplin himself emphasized the need to play rag at a moderate tempo; playing too fast is certain to destroy a good rag. Perhaps the popularity of "The Entertainer" is one well-deserved tribute to the creativity and contribution of Scott Joplin, an amazing American composer.