

# The Entertainer

Scott Joplin (1902)

Arr: Tom Thomason (1974)  
TablEdited by Tom Thomason(1998)

8va

2/4

Intro

First section

14 16 12 11 7 9 0 6 8 9 4 6 7 4 6 4 3 2 7 4 4 0 1 1 1 2 0 0 0 0 2 0

T  
A  
B

6

0 2 3 4 0 2 4 4 2 0 0 0 0 2 0

T  
A  
B

0 2 4 2 2 0 2 2 4 0 1 2 1 2 2 0 2 4 3

11

0 4 2 2 0 0 0 0 2 3 4 0 2 4 2

T  
A  
B

3 4 4 2 2 4 6 0 1 2 2 2 0 2 2 4 2

8va

1.

16

0 0 2 4 0 2 4 0 2 0 4 0 2 4 0 2 0 4 0 2 4 2 0

T

A

B

0 2 2 2 0 4 3 2 2 2 2 4 6 0

This system contains the first musical staff (treble clef, key of F# major) and the first three staves of the guitar tablature. The staff has a '1.' first ending bracket. The tablature starts at measure 16 and includes fret numbers for the Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) staves.

2.

8va

Second section

21

0 2 0 0 2 0 4 0 0 2 4 0 2 0 2

T

A

B

2 2 0 0 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 0

This system contains the second musical staff (treble clef, key of F# major) and the next three staves of the guitar tablature. It is labeled '2.' and 'Second section'. The tablature starts at measure 21 and includes fret numbers for the Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) staves.

8va

25

0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 3 4 4 4 2 0 1 2 3

T

A

B

4 2 2 0 2 0 0 4 3 3 3 4 1 2 3

This system contains the third musical staff (treble clef, key of F# major) and the final three staves of the guitar tablature on this page. The tablature starts at measure 25 and includes fret numbers for the Treble (T), Alto (A), and Bass (B) staves.

8va

30

T 0 2 0 0 2 0 0 2 4 0 0 2 4 0 2 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 2 2

A 2 1 1 2 3 2 1 2 2 1 2 3 0 3 0 2 2 2

B 0 2 2 0 2 2 2 3 4 2 0 0 0 1 1

8va

35

T 0 0 4 7 4 0 0 2 0 4 2 0 1 1 2 3 1 4 0 1 1 1 2

A 1 3 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 4 0 1 2 2 2

B 2 7 2 2 2 2 2 4 2 2 0 0 2 2

First section (repeat)

8va

40

T 0 2 3 4 0 2 4 2 0 0 0 0 2 0

A 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

B 0 4 2 2 0 2 2 4 0 2 2 2 4 3

45

	0	4	2	2		0	0	0		0	2	3	4	0	2	4	2
T	3	2		5	2				1	1	1	2				4	2
A		4		4					2	2	2						
B	2		2			2	2	4	6	0		2	0	4		2	

50

	0		0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	0	4	0	2	4	0	2	0	4	0	2	4	2	0	0
T																						4	2		
A		2	2			2		0				4		3		2		2				2		1	
B	0									4	3		2		2		2				2		2	0	

Third section

55

	2	1	2	2	0	2		2	1	2	2	3		0	0	0		2
T																		
A		2			0	0	2	4	2	1	2	2	4	0	4	4	4	2
B	0					4			2		4		2	1	2	4	5	2

61

T	4	4	7	4	0	2	3	2	1	2	0	2	3	2	1	2	2
A	6	5				2	1				2		0	4	0	2	4
B			4			4	2	0			0		4	0	2	4	2

66

T	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	0
A	4				4	4	2	4	2	1	2	4	1	2
B	2	1	2	4	5	2	3	4	0	4	2	1	0	0

Third section (variation)

71

T	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	0	2	3	0	0	0
A	0	2				0	0	2	4	1	2	1	2	4	3
B						4					4		2	3	

8va

76

T						4		0												
A	2		2			5	4	5	7	4	0	2	3		2	1	2	3	2	0
B	4	3	4		2	6					4	4	3	2	0	0		2		3

8va

81

T																					
A	2	1	2		0	2	3		0			0	0		2	2		0	0	1	
B	2			4			4	2	1	2	4	0	4	5	4	2	4	3	2	0	1

8va

Interlude

86

T																				
A	2	5		0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	4	7	4	0	0	2	0	4	2
B	0	6		0	0		1	1			2					2	2	2	2	0

8va

Fourth section

91

T	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	5	5	2	0	4	5	7	7	0	4	3	4	3	4
A	4	3	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	0	1	3	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	3	4
B	0			0		0		4		0	0				7		2		2		

8va

96

T	2	5	2	4	5	4	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	5	2
A								2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	4	3	4	2		
B	2			2				1	1	1	0					0					4		

8va

101

T	0				5	4	5	7	4	7	0	7	5	0	9	9	9	12	12	9	0	0	4	2	0
A	1	3	4	3	4	4				4		6	5	6	9	12	9	8	9		2	4			
B	0			0		0		7							9	9					4	2		1	

1. 2.

8va

106 12

T 0 0 0 0 1 9

A 1 1 1 1 1 9

B 2 2 2 2 2 0

Written in 1902 this is, without a doubt, the most well-known of Scott Joplin rags. The odd thing is that when I play this arrangement people often say "Oh, I recognize the first part, that's 'The Sting', but what was that other tune you added at the end?". Despite the arrangement used in that film, "The Entertainer" consists, as do the vast majority of rags, of an intro and four sections played in an Intro/AA/BB/A/CC/DD format. In this particular case, a short interlude has been added between the 3rd and 4th sections.

A fairly straightforward arrangement in the key of E this, as is the case with most of my arrangements is designed specifically for the steel-string guitar. I use three guitars, an Epiphone Emperor Regent jazz model with 14 frets clear of the body and a cutaway to provide access to higher frets and two, hand-built, Sandén guitars (Michael Sandén is an ex-guitar student of mine who makes exquisite acoustic guitars here in Sweden) which have 16 frets clear of the body. I suppose this could be played on a classical guitar without the capo but I suspect the intro might still be tricky. On the other hand, for once there's no left-hand thumb work to be considered.

The D chord appearing for the first time in the 2nd measure of the 3rd section should be played with a three string barré on the second fret. This section and the variation in its repeat call for a little tricky bass work with the little finger of the left hand.

In the beginning of measure 103, the 6th fret of the 3rd string should be fretted with the middle finger with the ring finger on the 7th of the 4th. The middle finger is then moved down to the 5th fret and the ring finger is then used to fret the 6 falling on the next 16th note. With the index finger holding the 4th fret of the 4th string, this leaves your little finger free to catch the 7th fret of the 1st string.