

Ragtime Information sheet

A **tie** joins two notes of the same pitch. You **count** the value of both notes but you only **play one**.

a **dotted rhythm** very common in Ragtime.

a **chromatic scale** uses each black and white note and moves in step.



Ragtime is a style of music which originated from North America over 100 years ago during the struggle of African slavery. The African people who first played Ragtime called their dancing 'ragging' and the piano pieces they danced to were called 'rags'. You usually hear Ragtime played on the piano, but during this period the traditional instrument was the banjo which could play the tunes with African rhythms. Today, some of the Ragtime pieces have been arranged for small wind ensembles and other instrumental groups, but the majority remain as piano pieces. You can usually tell a Ragtime piece by its rhythm or beat, bouncy and jerky in the melodic part whilst maintaining a steady beat in the accompaniment. There's also lots of 'syncopation', this means that the accent of the music falls on the off-beat.