

The
AMERICAN SCHOOL
of
RAGTIME PIANO
PLAYING

PRICE

\$1.00

by

H. J. BECKERMAN

ARRANGED BY

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PREFACE

RAGTIME is an American form of syncopation, I say American because of its origin.

I have been a student of classical music in Europe for many years and disagree with skeptics who have condemned and criticized RAGTIME as not being musical. I contend that it can be made very melodious when played slowly and in strict time.

It is not my wish to deceive the public or to give it a false impression that this method is a self instructor or that one can in a few lessons become a proficient RAGTIME pianist. It is absolutely necessary to learn the fundamental principles of music before commencing the study of RAG - TIME.

I have endeavored to make my method as concise and as simple as possible and have given examples of all the principle figures in RAGTIME and popular piano playing as I have studied them in this country.

THE AUTHOR

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF MUSIC

THE STAFF

The Staff consists of five lines and four spaces

A BAR



A Bar is a vertical line drawn through the staff

A MEASURE

A Measure is the distance between two bars

LEGER LINES



Leger lines are short lines added above or below the staff

CLEFS

Middle C Middle C Middle C Middle C



Treble or Alto or Tenor or Bass or
G clef C clef F clef F clef

PRINCIPLE NOTES IN THE TREBLE CLEF



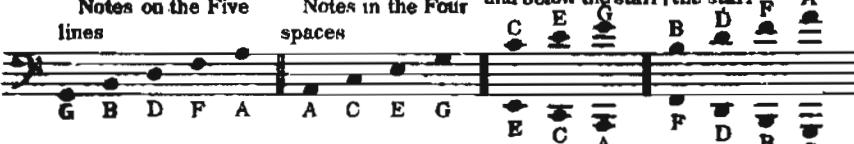
Notes on the five lines - Notes in the spaces after lines above and below the staff
Notes on the lego lines - Notes in the spaces above and below the staff



PRINCIPLE NOTES IN THE BASS CLEF



Notes on the five lines - Notes in the spaces above and below the staff
Notes on the lego lines - Notes in the spaces above and below the staff



In order to learn the notes quickly, it is necessary for the pupil to memorize the musical alphabet
C D E F G A B in succession, also in all the intervals backward and forward.

INTERVALS



VALUE OF NOTES AND RESTS

A whole note or whole rest contains:
2 half notes or
4 half rests
4 quarter notes or
4 quarter rests
8 eighth notes or
8 eighth rests
4 sixteenth notes or
16 sixteenth rests
32 thirty-second notes or
32 thirty-second rests
64 sixty-fourth notes or
64 sixty-fourth rests



4.

DOTTED NOTES



DOTTED RESTS



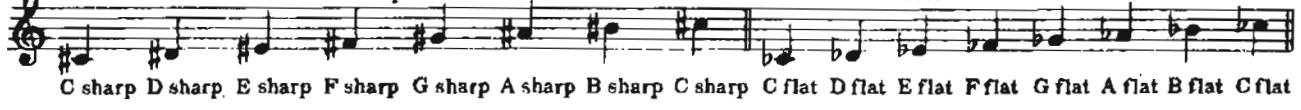
ACCIDENTALS

Sharp **Flat** **Natural**

Double sharp x **Double flat** bb

A musical staff with six notes. From left to right: a note on the G line labeled 'C'; a note on the A line labeled 'C sharp'; a note on the G line labeled 'C natural'; a note on the B line labeled 'D'; a note on the A line labeled 'D flat'; and a note on the B line labeled 'D natural'.

Names of the notes with the sharps



Names of the notes with the flats

TEMPO MARKS

Common time	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} C = 4/4 \\ \Phi = 2/2 \\ 2/4 \end{array} \right.$	The upper figure denotes the number of beats in a measure.
Triple time	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 3/4 \\ 3/8 \end{array} \right.$	The lower figure denotes that a note of its value receives one beat.
Compound time	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 6/8 \\ 9/8 \end{array} \right.$	

ENHARMONICS



C	C sharp D flat	D	D sharp E flat	E or F flat	F or E sharp	F sharp G flat	G	G sharp A flat	A	A sharp B flat	B or C flat	C or B sharp	C sharp D flat	Black keys
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The small notes are called grace notes, and are to be played very quickly.

gva over one or more notes, means to play an octave higher

Repeat marks

D.S. DAL SEGNO: means go back to the sign %% D.C. DA CAPO means go back to the beginning ; hold pause after the note

KEYBOARD OF THE MODERN PIANO

Seven and one third octaves



$A^2B^2C^1D^1E^1F^1G^1A^1B^1C^1D^1E^1F^1g^1a^1b^1c^2d^2e^2f^2g^2a^2b^2c^3d^3e^3f^3g^3a^3b^3c^4d^4e^4f^4g^4a^4b^4c^5$



A ² B ² C ¹ D ¹ E ¹ F ¹ G ¹ A ¹ B ¹ C ¹ D ¹ E ¹ F ¹ G ¹	a ¹ b ¹ c ¹ d ¹ e ¹ f ¹ g ¹ a ¹ b ¹ c ² d ² e ² f ² g ² a ² b ² c ³ d ³ e ³ f ³ g ³ a ³ b ³ c ⁴ d ⁴ e ⁴ f ⁴ g ⁴ a ⁴ b ⁴ c ⁵						
Lowest tones	Counter Octave	Large Octave	Small Octave	1 lined Octave	2 lined Octave	3 lined Octave	4 lined Octave
Bass Notes				Tutu Notes			

EXERCISES
for the Hand at Rest

5

The fingering above the notes is intended for the right hand, that below for the left, which is to play the notes an octave lower than written. Play each passage from 10 to 20 times.

N^o 1

N^o 2

N^o 3

N^o 4

N^o 5

N^o 6

N^o 7

Repeat these exercises with both hands, and continue to practice the following pieces.

Moderato

N^o 8

N^o 9

6

Nº10

Nº11

Nº12

Nº13

WALTZ PREMIER

Andantino

N914

Andantino

Moderato

Nº15

mf

Andantino

Nº16

MELODY**Allegretto**

Nº17

Nº18

BOHEMIA

Allegretto moderato

Nº19

BARN DANCE

Allegretto

Nº20

14
5

FAIRIES

9

Allegretto

Nº21

WALTZ ANNETTE

Allegretto

Nº22

EXERCISES

10

Repeat each passage 20 times

Nº23

POPULAR AIR

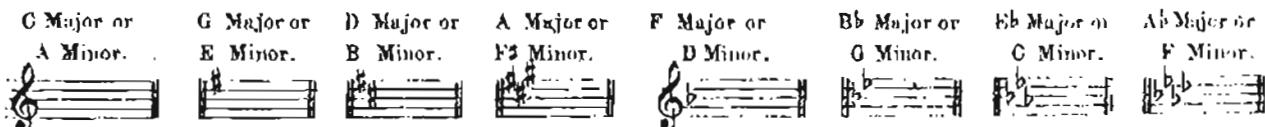
Andantino

Nº24

**Principle
Keys, Scales,
Arpeggios, Chords, etc.**

It is essential that the student memorize these, as much of the success in ragtime piano playing depends upon the improvisation of chords in each and every piece.

Following are the Principle Keys, Scales, Arpeggios, Chords, etc. Used in Ragtime Piano playing.



SCALES
Chromatic
Diatonic

The Chromatic scale ascends and descends in half steps.

There are two Diatonic scales: Major and Minor..

The Major scale has two half steps ascending and descending, they fall between the third and fourth, and seventh and eighth degrees. All the rest are whole steps.

There are two Minor scales: Harmonic and Melodic.

The Harmonic Minor scale has three half steps ascending and descending, they fall between the second and third, fifth and sixth, and seventh and eighth degrees. It also has a step and a half between the sixth and seventh degrees.

The Melodic Minor scale has two half steps ascending, they fall between the second and third, and seventh and eighth degrees. It has two half steps descending, they fall between the second, and third, and fifth and sixth degrees.

"G" Major

C Major

"A" Minor
(Melodic)

A musical score for piano, featuring two staves: Treble (top) and Bass (bottom). The Treble staff uses a common time signature (C) and a treble clef. The Bass staff also uses common time and a bass clef. The music consists of a series of chords and melodic lines. Fingerings are indicated above the notes, such as '1 2 3' over a treble note and '5' over a bass note. The score includes various dynamic markings like 'p' (piano), 'ff' (fortissimo), and 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The key signature changes between measures, including a section in G major (one sharp) and another in E major (two sharps).

The image shows two staves of sheet music. The top staff is in G Major (indicated by a treble clef and a single sharp sign) and the bottom staff is in G Major (indicated by a bass clef and a single sharp sign). Both staves are in 2/2 time. The music consists of eighth-note patterns. The left hand (bass) starts with a quarter note (5), followed by eighth-note pairs (3-1, 4-5, 3-1, 4-5). The right hand (treble) starts with a eighth-note pair (1-3, 4-1), followed by eighth-note pairs (3-1, 4-5, 4-1, 1-4, 1-3, 1). The notes are grouped by vertical bar lines.

The image shows a musical score for two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in common time with a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of six measures. Measure 1: Treble staff has notes with fingerings 1, 3, 1; Bass staff has notes with fingerings 5. Measure 2: Treble staff has notes with fingerings 4, 1; Bass staff has notes with fingerings L.H., 1. Measure 3: Treble staff has notes with fingerings 3, 1; Bass staff has notes with fingerings 4. Measure 4: Treble staff has notes with fingerings 1, 3, 1; Bass staff has notes with fingerings 1, 3. Measure 5: Treble staff has notes with fingerings 1, 3; Bass staff has notes with fingerings 1, 3. Measure 6: Treble staff has notes with fingerings 1, 4; Bass staff has notes with fingerings 1, 5.

"E" Minor (Melodic)

"D" Major

"B" Minor (Harmonic)

"B" Minor (Melodic)

The sheet music consists of six staves of musical notation. The first staff is labeled "E" Minor (Melodic) and features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The second staff is labeled "D" Major and features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The third staff is labeled "B" Minor (Harmonic) and features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The fourth staff is labeled "B" Minor (Melodic) and features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The fifth staff is identical to the fourth. The sixth staff is identical to the fifth. Each staff contains two measures of music. The notation includes various note values (eighth and sixteenth notes), rests, and dynamic markings like "L.H." (left hand). Fingerings are indicated by numbers above or below the notes.

"A" Major

"F# Minor
(Harmonic)"

"F# Minor
(Melodic)"

"F Major"

"D" Minor (Harmonie)

"D" Minor (Melodic)

"B♭" Major

"G" Minor (Harmonic)

"G" Minor (Melodic)

E♭ Major

C Minor (Harmonic)

17

The image shows a page of musical notation for piano, consisting of six staves of music. The staves are grouped by key signature:

- C Minor (Melodic):** The first two staves. The treble staff has fingerings 1, 3, 1; 4, 1; 3, 1; 4, 5, 4; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1. The bass staff has fingerings 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1. A bracket indicates "L.H." (Left Hand) for the bass staff.
- "A♭" Major:** The third and fourth staves. The treble staff has fingerings 2, 3, 1; 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 3, 1, 2. The bass staff has fingerings 5, 4, 2; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 4, 1, 2, 3. A bracket indicates "L.H." (Left Hand) for the bass staff.
- E♭ Minor (Harmonic):** The fifth and sixth staves. The treble staff has fingerings 1, 4; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1. The bass staff has fingerings 5; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 5. A bracket indicates "L.H." (Left Hand) for the bass staff.
- "E♭" Minor (Melodic):** The seventh and eighth staves. The treble staff has fingerings 1, 4; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1. The bass staff has fingerings 5; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 1, 3, 1; 5. A bracket indicates "L.H." (Left Hand) for the bass staff.
- C minor (L.H.):** The ninth and tenth staves. The treble staff has fingerings 2, 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3. The bass staff has fingerings 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3. A bracket indicates "L.H." (Left Hand) for the bass staff.

Following are the principle figures used in the Ragtime Two-Step.
Keep repeating each figure until thoroughly familiar with same.

Fig. I.

Fig. II.

Fig. III.

Fig. IV.

Fig.V.



Fig.VI.



Fig.VII.



Fig.VIII.



Fig. IX.

Fig. X.

Fig. XI.

Fig.XII.

Musical score for Fig. XII. The score is divided into two staves by a brace. The top staff uses a treble clef and has a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and has a key signature of one sharp. Both staves are in common time. The top staff features a continuous eighth-note pattern, while the bottom staff features a continuous quarter-note pattern.

Continuation of Fig. XII. The score remains in G major (two sharps) and common time. The top staff continues its eighth-note pattern, and the bottom staff continues its quarter-note pattern.

Fig.XIII.

Musical score for Fig. XIII. The score is divided into two staves by a brace. The top staff uses a treble clef and has a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and has a key signature of one sharp. Both staves are in common time. The top staff features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern, and the bottom staff features a continuous eighth-note pattern.

Continuation of Fig. XIII. The score remains in G major (two sharps) and common time. The top staff continues its sixteenth-note pattern, and the bottom staff continues its eighth-note pattern.

Fig.XIV.

Musical score for Fig. XIV. The score is divided into two staves by a brace. The top staff uses a treble clef and has a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and has a key signature of one sharp. Both staves are in common time. The top staff features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern, and the bottom staff features a continuous eighth-note pattern.

Continuation of Fig. XIV. The score remains in F major (one sharp) and common time. The top staff continues its sixteenth-note pattern, and the bottom staff continues its eighth-note pattern.

THE STUDENT'S RAG

TWO-STEP

Tempo di Rag

H. J. BECKERMAN

Arr. by F. Henri Klickmann

f L.H.

D.S. al Fine

Following are the principle figures used in the Slow Drag or Ragtime Schottische.
Keep repeating each figure until thoroughly familiar with same.

Fig. I.

Fig. II.

Musical score for Fig. II in common time, C major. The top staff shows a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff shows a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of two measures of eighth-note patterns.

Continuation of Fig. II in common time, C major. The top staff shows a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff shows a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music continues the eighth-note pattern from the previous figure.

Fig. III.

Musical score for Fig. III in common time, G major. The top staff shows a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff shows a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of two measures of eighth-note patterns.

Continuation of Fig. III in common time, G major. The top staff shows a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff shows a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music continues the eighth-note pattern from the previous figure.

Fig. IV.

Musical score for Fig. IV in common time, F major. The top staff shows a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bottom staff shows a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music consists of two measures of eighth-note patterns.

Continuation of Fig. IV in common time, F major. The top staff shows a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bottom staff shows a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music continues the eighth-note pattern from the previous figure.

Fig.V.

Fig.VI.

Fig.VII.

26

Fig.VIII.

Fig. IX.

Fig. X.

Fig.XI



Fig.XII.



DOWN SOUTH
SLOW DRAG

H. J. BECKERMAN

Arr. by F. Henri Klickmann

Moderato (*Slowly*)

28

ff

p

ff

p

ff

p

ff

D.S. al Fine

Following are the principle figures used in the Ragtime or Syncopated Waltz.

29

Keep repeating each figure until thoroughly familiar with same.

Fig. I.

2/4

Treble staff: eighth-note patterns with syncopation.

Bass staff: quarter-note patterns with syncopation.

Fig. II.

2/4

Treble staff: eighth-note patterns with syncopation.

Bass staff: quarter-note patterns with syncopation.

Treble staff: eighth-note patterns with syncopation.

Bass staff: quarter-note patterns with syncopation.

Fig. III.

2/4

Treble staff: eighth-note patterns with syncopation.

Bass staff: quarter-note patterns with syncopation.

Fig. IV.

2/3

Treble staff: eighth-note patterns with syncopation.

Bass staff: quarter-note patterns with syncopation.

Treble staff: eighth-note patterns with syncopation.

Bass staff: quarter-note patterns with syncopation.

Fig.V.



Fig.VI.



Fig.VII.



Fig.VIII.

Fig. IX.

Fig. X.

HAPPINESS

RAGTIME (Syncopated) WALTZ

H. J. BECKERMAN

Arr. by F. Henri Klickmann

Valse moderato

Staff 1: Treble and Bass staves. Key signature changes from C major to G major. Dynamics: f, f.

Staff 2: Treble and Bass staves. Dynamics: mf-f. Articulation: grace notes.

Staff 3: Treble and Bass staves. Dynamics: f.

Staff 4: Treble and Bass staves. Dynamics: f.

Staff 5: Treble and Bass staves. Dynamics: f. Articulation: v, ^, A. Measure 1: 1. Measure 2: 2. Fine.

How to "Rag" a Straight Melody.

There are two ways in which to "Rag" a straight Melody.

It can be "Ragged" either with the notes of the harmony and chords of the left hand or by using passing notes.

For instance, this Melody:

"May be Ragged" either with notes of the harmony and chords of the left hand, As in Example I.

EXAMPLE I.

Or by using passing notes;
as long as you remain in
the same key, as in example
II.

EXAMPLE II.

Almost any figure may be used to "Rag" a straight Melody.

In the above examples I use figure V. on page 18.

In order to become familiar with "Ragging" a straight Melody, practice the above by using all of the principle figures on pages 17, 18, 19 & 20.

The melody should be more prominent than the syncopation, therefore a slight accent is necessary.
Following are a few more examples in "Ragging" a straight melody.

OLD FOLKS AT HOME

Andante moderato

OLD FOLKS AT HOME
(In Ragtime, using only the chords to "Rag" with)

35

Rag tempo

mf

Fine

D. S. al Fine $\frac{3}{4}$

OLD FOLKS AT HOME

(In Ragtime, using passing tones)

Rag tempo

mf

§

fz Fine

D.S. al Fine

LOVE'S OLD SWEET SONG

97

Andante

LOVE'S OLD SWEET SONG

Rag tempo

(In Ragtime)

ANGEL'S SERENADE.

Andante con moto

G. BRAGA.

The musical score for "Angel's Serenade" by G. Braga, page 88, features five systems of music. The music is in 6/8 time. The instrumentation includes a treble clef part and a bass clef part. The dynamics are primarily indicated by the letter 'p' (pianissimo). The first four systems each contain three measures. The fifth system begins with a measure of 'p', followed by a dynamic change and a 'rall.' (rallentando) instruction. The score is composed of five systems of music, with each system containing three measures. The music is written in a clear, legible hand, with the title and composer name at the top right.

ANGEL'S SERENADE

(In Ragtime)

84

Rag tempo

The sheet music consists of six staves of musical notation, likely for a piano or similar instrument. The first staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It includes a dynamic marking 'mf'. The subsequent staves show bass clefs, a key signature of one flat, and common time. The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, along with rests. The notation is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

FLOWER SONG

G. LANGE

Lento express

Piano sheet music for 'FLOWER SONG' in 6/8 time. The music is marked 'Lento express' and 'mf'. The notation includes four staves of piano music.

FLOWER SONG (Ragtime Waltz)

Valse mod. to

Piano sheet music for 'FLOWER SONG' in 2/4 time, marked 'Valse mod. to' and 'm.v.'. The notation includes four staves of piano music.