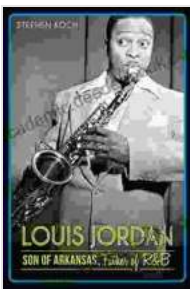


# Son of Arkansas: The Father of American Jazz

Scott Joplin was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, in 1868. He was the son of Giles Joplin, a former slave, and Florence Givens, a free woman of color. Joplin's father died when he was young, and his mother remarried. His stepfather, John Steele, was a successful businessman, and he provided Joplin with a good education.



## Louis Jordan: Son of Arkansas, Father of R&B

by Stephen Koch

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2992 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 161 pages
Paperback	: 253 pages
Item Weight	: 9.8 ounces
Dimensions	: 5 x 0.64 x 8 inches



Joplin began playing the piano at an early age. He showed a natural talent for music, and he quickly mastered the instrument. Joplin's mother encouraged his musical talents, and she bought him a piano when he was 11 years old.

In 1885, Joplin left Arkansas and moved to St. Louis, Missouri. He worked as a pianist in various saloons and clubs, and he began to develop his own

unique style of music. Joplin's music was a blend of African American folk music, European classical music, and ragtime. Joplin's ragtime compositions were characterized by their syncopated rhythms and catchy melodies. They were a hit with audiences, and they helped to make Joplin one of the most popular musicians of his time.

In 1899, Joplin published his most famous ragtime composition, "The Maple Leaf Rag." The song was a huge success, and it helped to make Joplin a household name. Joplin continued to compose ragtime music throughout his career, and he published over 100 compositions. His music was played by bands and orchestras all over the world, and it helped to popularize ragtime.

In addition to his music, Joplin was also a talented writer. He wrote several plays and short stories, and he even published a novel. Joplin's writing was often humorous and satirical, and it reflected his experiences as an African American man in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

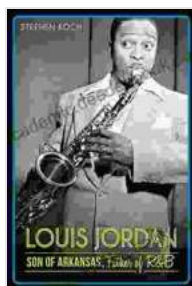
Joplin died in 1917 from syphilis. He was only 49 years old. Joplin's music has had a lasting impact on American music, and he is considered to be one of the most important figures in the history of jazz.

## **Legacy**

Scott Joplin's legacy is vast and far-reaching. His music has been performed by countless musicians, and it has been used in films, television shows, and commercials. Joplin's music has also inspired other musicians to create new works of art.

In addition to his musical legacy, Joplin is also an important figure in African American history. He was one of the first African Americans to achieve international fame as a musician. Joplin's success helped to break down barriers for other African American musicians, and he paved the way for the future of jazz.

Scott Joplin was a true pioneer in American music. His music is still enjoyed by people all over the world, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations for years to come.



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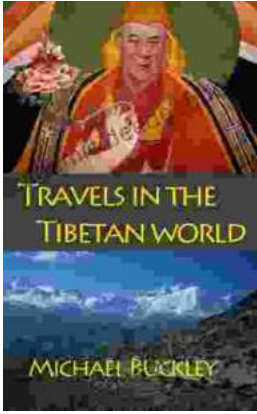
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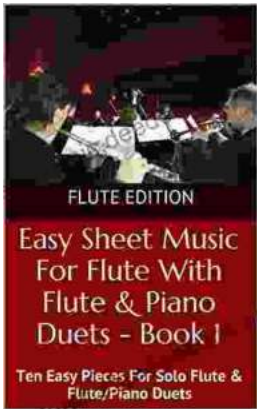
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