

The Entertainer

By Scott Joplin, Arrangement by Tim Gross / PianoGenius.com



**Play The Entertainer At Any Level
- From Simple To Full Ragtime.**

Watch The Video Lesson (Recommended First)

<https://www.pianogenius.com/entertainer>

This lead sheet is designed to work *with* the video lesson.

If you haven't watched it yet, start there - it will make everything here much easier to understand.

Two versions of the lead sheet included:

- **2-page version (pages 5-6)** - smaller print, 4 measures per line
- **5-page version (pages 7-11)** - larger print, easier to read

For the 5-page version, I recommend taping the first 3 pages together and the last 2 pages together.

You're welcome to share this PDF as long as it remains unchanged.

How To Use This Lead Sheet

This lead sheet is designed to let you play *The Entertainer* at any skill level - from a very simple version all the way up to a full ragtime feel - using the same exact chart.

The goal is simple: **get through the song first, then make it sound better over time.** Most people think this piece is way out of reach - it's not.

Key Points

The chords in this chart are **not dumbed down.**

If you want to play something like C7/G, you can - but you don't have to. You can simplify everything down to basic chords or even single notes, and build it up as your comfort level improves.

Start simple:

- Melody only
- Melody + single bass notes
- Full chords
- More advanced left-hand patterns

You can "choose your level" at any point. (In the video I say "Choose your own adventure", because this should be fun.)

A Few Things To Look For

Inverted Walking 3rds

Even though the chart shows a single-note melody, you can expand it into 2–3 note shapes by keeping your hand in a fixed position ("claw shape"), as demonstrated in the video.

Slash Chords (C/G, etc.)

These tell you what bass note to use if you want a fuller sound - but you can always ignore the slash and just play the basic chord.

Bass Walks (/G /A /B)

When you see notes under a slash like this, they're optional bass walk-ups or walk-downs to give it more movement.

First and Second Endings

These control how the song repeats. If you're not familiar with them, make sure to review that section in the video.

Lead Sheets vs. Sheet Music

Lead sheets focus on the **most important information**:

- Melody
- Chords

That's it.

Professional players use this format all the time (often called "fake books"), and make songs sound full by applying patterns they already know.

That's the idea here: Instead of memorizing everything note-for-note, you're learning how to *build* the song.

If This Approach Clicks For You

This is exactly what I teach inside PianoGenius - how to take simple chord charts or lead sheets and turn them into real-sounding piano playing using patterns.

There are full modules on:

- Playing from EZ-style lead sheets
- Adding melody to chord-based playing
- Building patterns you can use across hundreds of songs

Want To Go Deeper On The Entertainer?

There's also a full **90 minute Entertainer training module** that goes into much more detail than the YouTube lesson, including:

- More advanced left-hand patterns
- Step-by-step breakdowns of difficult sections
- How I evaluated and chose the best lead sheet approach for this song

You can access that here:

🔗 <https://www.pianogenius.com/entertainer-full>

Additional Lead Sheets

If you like this style (note names inside the notes), there are many more available in that **EZ Play Today** format. ↩ <https://www.ezleadsheets.com>

Final Thought

Don't overthink it.

If you can get through the melody slowly, you're already on your way. From there, just keep adding layers as you're ready.

The Lead Sheet starts on the next page

21 ^{2.} *strain B*

24

28

32

36

The Entertainer

Scott Joplin (1902)

Arr. by Tim Gross / PianoGenius.com

intro

4/4

3

G *strain A*

5

C **C⁷/G** **F** **C/E**

2

7 C/G G C G

Inverted Walking 3rds Works Here

9 C C7/G F C/E Cm/Eb

11 D7 G7 /G /A /B

13 C C7/G F C/E

Inverted Walking 3rds

15 C/G G C

Inverted Walking 3rds Works Here

17 C C⁷/B \flat F/A Fm/A \flat

Inverted Walking 3rds Works Here

19 C/G G⁷ C 1.

Inverted Walking 3rds Works Here

21 C *strain B*

4

22 C C/G C C/G

Musical notation for measures 22-23. Measure 22: Chords C and C/G. Notes: G, A, G, G, E, F, F#. Measure 23: Chords C and C/G. Notes: G, A, G, G, E, C, G.

24 F Fm C C/G

Musical notation for measures 24-25. Measure 24: Chords F and Fm. Notes: A, B, C, D, E, D, C, D. Measure 25: Chords C and C/G. Notes: G, E, F, G, A, G, E, F.

26 C C/G C C/E Cm/Eb

Musical notation for measures 26-27. Measure 26: Chords C and C/G. Notes: G, A, G, G, E, F, F#. Measure 27: Chords C, C/E, and Cm/Eb. Notes: G, A, G, G, A, A#.

28 G/D D7 G /F /E /D

Musical notation for measures 28-29. Measure 28: Chords G/D and D7. Notes: B, B, B, B, A, F#, D. Measure 29: Chords G, /F, /E, and /D. Notes: G, E, F, F#.

30

C C/G C C/G

Musical staff for measures 30-31. Measure 30 contains notes G, A, G, G, E, F#, F#. Measure 31 contains notes G, A, G, G, E, C, G. Chords C, C/G, C, and C/G are indicated above the staff.

32

F Fm C

Musical staff for measures 32-33. Measure 32 contains notes A, B, C, D, E, D, C, D. Measure 33 contains notes G, G, F#, G. Chords F, Fm, and C are indicated above the staff.

34

F D7 F#o7 C/G

Musical staff for measures 34-35. Measure 34 contains notes C, A, C, C, A, A. Measure 35 contains notes G, C, E, G, G, E, C, G. Chords F, D7, F#o7, and C/G are indicated above the staff.

36

D7 G7 C /G /C

Musical staff for measures 36-37. Measure 36 contains notes A, C, E, D. Measure 37 contains note C. Chords D7, G7, C, /G, and /C are indicated above the staff.

Want To Take This Further?

If you liked this approach, there's a full **Entertainer training module** that goes much deeper than the YouTube lesson.

It includes:

- More advanced left-hand patterns
- Step-by-step breakdowns of the harder sections
- How to turn this into a full ragtime-style performance
- How to evaluate lead sheets / sheet music before considering purchasing them

Get The Full Entertainer Module:

👉 <https://www.pianogenius.com/entertainer-full>

You can get it as a standalone module, details and any included bonuses are listed on the page.

Inside PianoGenius

The full training focuses on:

- Playing from lead sheets and chord charts and by ear
- Adding melody to chord-based playing
- Building playing patterns you can use across hundreds of songs

This is how most working players actually play - not by memorizing sheet music, but by understanding how things fit together.

One Last Tip

Don't wait until you feel "ready." If you can play through even a few measures slowly, you're already doing it right. Just keep building from there.

- Tim Gross

PianoGenius.com