

This presentation investigates the main structural, melodic, and rhythmic elements of Ragtime music for the purpose of creating a contemporary composition in a similar style. Ragtime was a popular genre of piano music during the late 1800's and early 1900's, and it is often considered a precursor to jazz. The study of prominent works by Scott Joplin, James Scott, Joseph Lamb, and Eubie Blake were used to identify key features that appeared consistently throughout their pieces. Syncopation, tempo, meter, harmony, key center, form, and orchestration shared strong commonalities between each composer. Using this data, a new tune can be constructed that imitates this music.