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The Entertainer A Duet for two Mixed-Level Violins

Title: The Entertainer

Origin: Scott Joplin, 1868-1917USA, composed c.1901

Key: C major

Metre: 2/4

Rhythms: Ragtime rhythms; syncopated 16ths; tied 16ths

Skill Level: Violin I: Level 3 Violin II: Level 6+

Duration: 1:30

About the Music: This is one of Scott Joplin's most-loved compositions. It is a favorite of ragtime pianists and appears often in films. This piece has been arranged every variety of instruments imaginable. In the '70's the movie 'The Sting' made it even more widely known.

Performance Suggestions

- The music is leisurely and gentle. Observe the tempo marking.
- The 4th finger usage is a must!
- Violin II has several opportunities to play in 4th position.
- The bow-lifts are optional.
- The staccato is unaccented.
- Work carefully on the pizzicato.

Pedagogy

- a variety of swing syncopations
- chromatics everywhere
- requires rhythmically compatible players
- encourage players listen to Joplin piano recordings
- intricate stretto entries at m. 31-32
- this duet is a true challenge for intonation and rhythm.