

Populating the State – Immigration

Heart of Texas Tales website-supplement

African American Scott Joplin

Scott Joplin (1868-1917) was a great composer and pianist. As a boy in Texarkana, Texas, Joplin taught himself to play the piano. He played and composed ragtime music, a lively, unique genre. He composed over 60 pieces (most for piano), including the "Maple Leaf Rag" and "The Entertainer," which are still popular today. Joplin also wrote two operas.

He was fascinated with the "Crash at Crush" railroad publicity stunt and wrote a piece, "The Great Collision at Crush," in celebration of the event.