

Scott Joplin - The Easy Winners & Other Rag-Time Music (1975)

Written by bluesever

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01. The Rag-Time Dance 02. The Easy Winners 03. Bethena (A Concert Waltz) 04. Magnetic Rag 05. The Strenuous Life (Rag-Time Two-Step) 06. The Entertainer 07. Elite Syncopations 08. Solace (A Mexican Serenade) 09. Pine Apple Rag 10. Sugar Cane (A Rag-Time Classic Two-Step) Itzhak Perlman – violin Andre Previn – piano

Of course this gem had to appear as a CD, too. I have been listening to it on vinyl since 1975 when it was a grammy-nominee (category: classical chamber music!), and it is still one of the brightest shining stars in my ragtime-collection. It is the very recording that opened the eyes of the classical music-listeners to ragtime with its comparison between Joplin and his austrian contemporary Fritz Kreisler - and Joplin certainly holds his own.

The arrangements are written by Perlman, who has done a marvellous job in transforming the "saloon music" into "salon music" without loosing the original ragtime feeling. And the performance by Perlman and Previn is "living music" at it's best - 2 stars of the classical music showing us that there are really just two kinds of music: Good music and poor music. And Joplin's rags are good music! ---Per Salling, amazon.com

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