



A P P L I C A T I O N

Part One: General Information (All fields must be completed)

Student name _____
Mailing address _____
City State Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Age _____ Grade _____
School(s) _____
Instrument(s) _____

Class/ensemble music teacher (name and phone number and/or email)

Name _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Private lesson teacher (name and phone number and/or email)

Name _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Number of years of music study: _____

Number of years performing ragtime music: _____

Ragtime festival attendance and contest experience (if any).

Ragtime repertoire (please note works publicly performed or used in competitions).

Other activities in ragtime and music in general.

Describe what you personally hope to gain from this experience and the lasting benefits of having completed your research. Consider specific and long-term goals.

Are you able to attend the 2026 Scott Joplin Festival, held in Sedalia, MO, May 27–30, 2026? Y N

Sponsor references: minimum of one each preferred to be submitted

Teacher name _____
Mailing address _____
City State Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Signature _____

Parent Name _____
Mailing address _____
City State Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Signature _____

Part Two: Performance, Composition, and Research (The fields below should be completed as fully as represents the student’s work and experience. In addition to any supporting materials, a separate essay document may be submitted.)

Performance. Please submit video clips of your performances (no more than two complete pieces). The selections should be in the ragtime style and ideally would offer contrasting tempos and textures, etc. Include the title, composer, and any additional information that would be helpful in evaluating your performance. If you have uploaded a video of any of your performances to You Tube, please provide the You Tube link here:

Composition. If submitting a composition, include a copy of your manuscript or print edition, and/or a video performance, whether by you or another player, and identify accordingly. Submit a composition that you feel best represents your talent and skill. You are encouraged to offer a comment about the nature of the piece, special circumstances about its origins, and if you feel any other composer has been inspiring to you. Indicate the year of composition and if it has been formally registered for copyright (with the year of copyright).

Research and Writing. If you have completed previous research in any area of ragtime music or history, attach a sample of text and supporting documents that demonstrate your work so far, and areas that you wish to develop. Describe the general subject of planned new research* and any questions you want to answer and points you hope to address (maximum 300 words).

Some suggested topics related to ragtime’s contribution to American music history:

- an overlooked town or region that produced a ragtime composer, not previously widely recognized, but from which the student has found some new artifact or information
- unexpected consequences of the rediscovery of Joplin; for example, how naming a school after him (or another ragtime composer) has changed the life of one of its students, or the community
- There are many other possibilities that can be explored and may be broad in scope or highly specific and obscure. A specific composer may be explored in depth, or social, behavioral, and demographic research can be studied. We encourage you to follow your own interests here!

By signing, the selected applicant confirms that this completed application and supporting materials are true and represent their own work. If chosen as winner, the applicant also agrees to attend the 2026 Scott Joplin Festival in acceptance of the honorarium offered by the Foundation. *It is further understood that student will be accompanied by an adult attending at their own expense.*

Student signature _____ Date _____

To submit your application, complete this form and return via email (SJFSedalia@gmail.com) no later than February 22, 2026 at 11:59 CST.

The 2026 Ragtime Kid will be introduced at the Festival May 27–30, 2026.