

**THOMPSON PLAYS JOPLIN CD REVIEW FROM
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For those unfamiliar with Butch Thompson's musical background, the notes include comprehensive biographical information about this fine artist.

Butch loves and understands ragtime and the music of Scott Joplin in particular, arguably better than any other piano player around today. His own notes about the revival of interest in ragtime, from the early 70s on, demonstrate this understanding and are well worth a read in their own right.

Butch plays these Joplin compositions and collaborations (*Heliotrope Bouquet* with Louis Chauvin, *Swipesy Cakewalk* and *Lily Queen* with Arthur Marshall) with due deference to the sheet music, but with plenty of what he refers to as 'a uniquely American rhythmic snap, the compelling beat of ragtime.' This is no routine playing of the notes, nor are there distortions or approximations of what Joplin intended; top class ragtime piano from a top class jazzman, who plays fine stride piano and whose interpretations of Jelly Roll Morton's compositions are equally outstanding, both on record and in live performance.

There is no need for me to say more about this excellent album, recorded in warm digital stereo. If you enjoy ragtime piano, played with both guts and finesse, this is for you.

Recommended without reservation.

Pat Hawes

*“Top class
ragtime piano
from a top class
jazzman”*