# It's RAGTIME!

8 Ragtime Solos and Arrangements for the Intermediate Pianist

**W.T. Skye Garcia**

For anyone who has experienced the music of ragtime, it is easy to see how pianists of all ages and abilities quickly develop a fascination for this spirited style of music. I began trying to teach myself to play Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag* sometime during my first six months of piano lessons—without my teacher's knowledge!

Chief among the characteristics of ragtime is a melody containing varying degrees of syncopation. This syncopated melody is in contrast to a steady pulse maintained by the accompaniment. As such, the study of ragtime can serve to further students' awareness of some of the more advanced rhythmic complexities that occur in music, as well as enhance their overall physical coordination at the piano.

It was not these teaching considerations, however, that led me to spend countless hours at my piano "hammering out" Joplin's rag, but rather the sheer joy of hearing ragtime come alive under my fingertips. This is the experience I hope each of you who plays these pieces can share.

W.T. Skye Garcia

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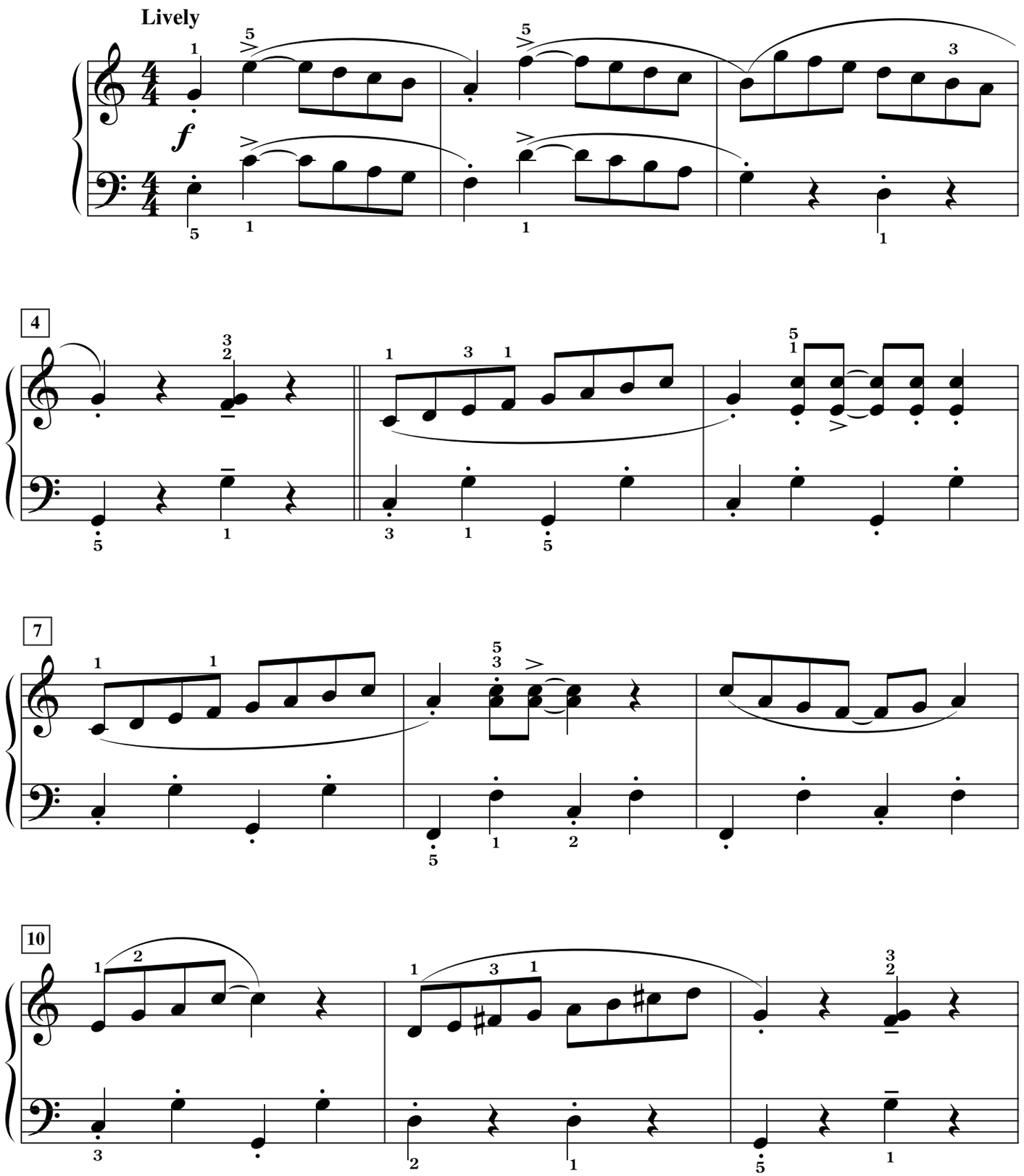
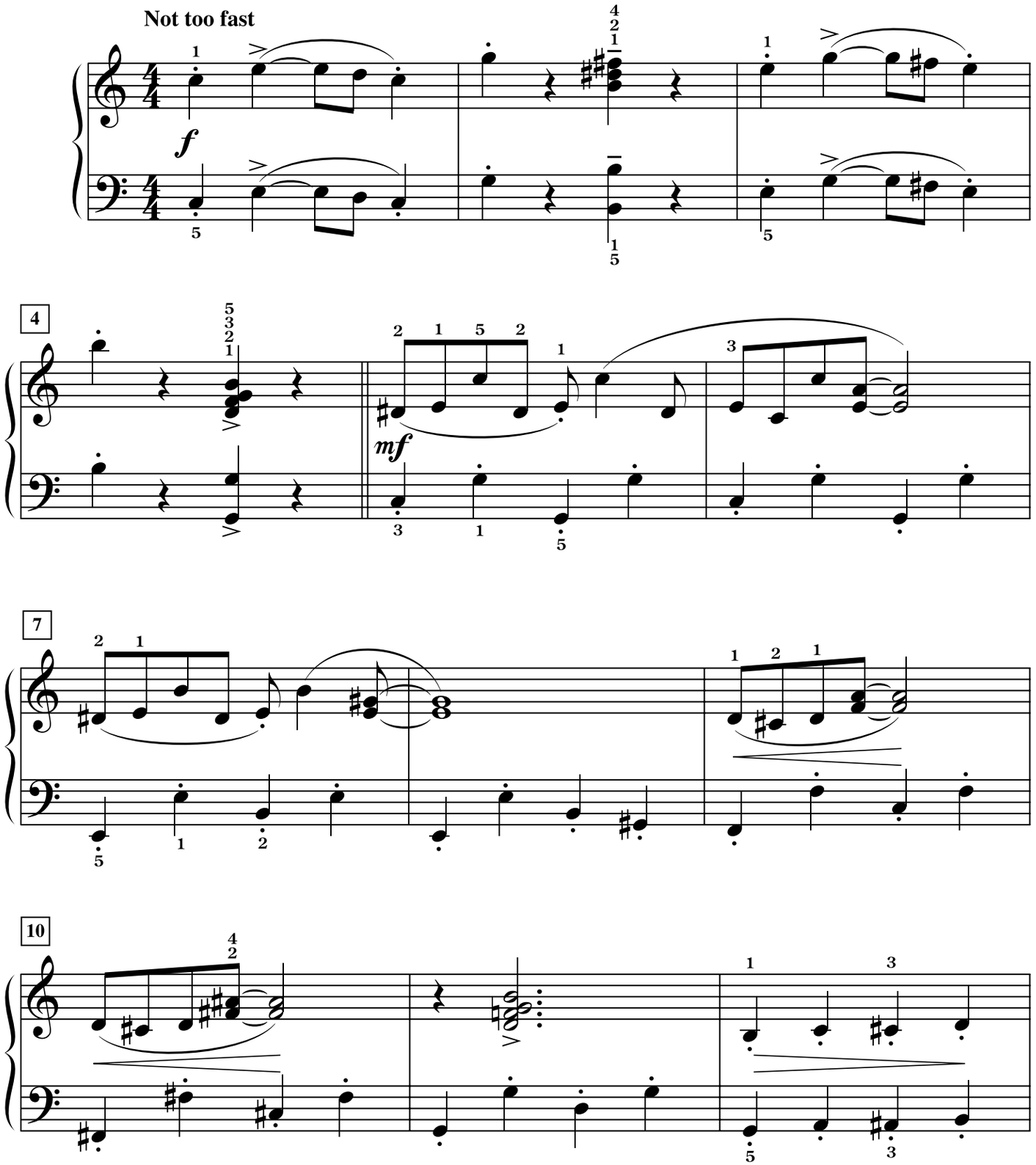
# Step Right Up!

## The Ionian Rag*

W. T. Skye Garcia




**Ionian* is a musical term that refers to the pattern of whole steps and half steps found in a major scale.

# Scalawag Rag

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