

# Calliope Rag

James Scott (1910) - Robert R. (Ragtime Bob) Darch (1966)

Arr: Tom Thomason (1975)  
TabEdited by Tom Thomason (1998)

Capo 2

C E (G#) G C (6)

T = L.H. Thumb

C G7 G9 sus4 G9 sus4

G9 sus4 C C (6) C

F F C G D maj add 9 G7 C F G7

21

Second section

Chords: C, C(6), F#m/5+, F# min/5+

Rhythmic patterns: H Po, H Po, H Po

26

Chords: C, C maj 6

31

Chords: A sus 4/5+, G maj, B min 7/5+

Rhythmic patterns: H Po, H Po, H Po

36

First section (repeat)

Chords: C maj 6, C(6), C

41

G7 G9 sus4 G9 sus4

T 1 1 1 1 1 1 1  
A 0 0 0 1 0 2 1 0 3 0 2 3 4 0  
B 0 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 3 3 2 0 3

46

C(6) C F F

T 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 5 5 6 5 7 5  
A 3 2 2 2 1 0 2 1 0 1 3 3 5 6 5 3  
B 3 2 3 2 3 3 3 3 0 1 1 1 8 5 6 3

51

C maj D maj add 9 G7 C C C# min/5-

Third section

T 3 0 3 5 3 0 3 2 3 3 1 8 5 3 0 5 3 0  
A 2 3 3 2 0 3 2 3 3 0 9 3 2 2 2 4 2  
B 2 3 3 2 0 3 3 3 3 3 8 3 2 0 0 4 2

T T

56

D9 H Po H Po H Po H Po C

T 0 0 3 3 3 5 3 4 3 5 3 3 5 3 3 1 3 0 3 1  
A 0 0 0 0 3 0 4 3 5 3 2 3 5 3 0 2 0 3 1  
B 2 2 0 0 3 0 4 3 4 3 2 0 2 0 3 3 0 0 4

T T T T

Musical notation for measures 61-65. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. Below the staff are guitar chord diagrams for G, C, F, G7, and C(6). A bracket labeled "2" spans measures 62 and 63. A bracket labeled "First Section (repeat)" spans measures 64 and 65. Below the chord diagrams are three staves (T, A, B) with fret numbers and a "T" label at the end of the system.

Musical notation for measures 66-70. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. Below the staff are guitar chord diagrams for G9 sus4, G9 sus4, and G9 sus4. Below the chord diagrams are three staves (T, A, B) with fret numbers.

Musical notation for measures 71-75. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. Below the staff are guitar chord diagrams for C(6), C, and F. Below the chord diagrams are three staves (T, A, B) with fret numbers.

Musical notation for measures 76-80. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. Below the staff are guitar chord diagrams for F, G, D maj add 9, G7, C, and C. Below the chord diagrams are three staves (T, A, B) with fret numbers.

For those of you unfamiliar with the "Calliope" of the title, a calliope is an instrument (named after Calliope, the greek muse of epic poetry) consisting of a keyboard connected to a set of steam driven whistles. These were commonly used on the great paddle-wheelers of the Mississippi River. They were also used in circuses. These instruments had an incredible volume and could be heard for miles, announcing the arrival of the riverboat or circus coming to town.

This particular rag was sketched out by James Scott in 1910 but wasn't completed until one of the giants of modern ragtime, Robert R. "Ragtime Bob" Darch, finished the arrangement in 1966. My resident ragtime expert and good friend Kjell Waltman informs me that ragtimer Donald Ashwander also had a hand in it. My guitar arrangement is fairly easy to play with only a very few rough spots.

The C chord movement at the beginning of the first section requires you to move your left-hand index finger from the 1st fret of the 2nd string to the 2nd fret of the 3rd string on the 3rd beat of the measure. This is a recurring figure.

The F chord at the beginning of measure 17 may be difficult for those not accustomed to using a barréd C shape. There's no getting around it here and you'll find the shape useful in other arrangements.

The first of the three hammer-ons in measure 37 is performed with the index and middle fingers of the left hand for accuracy when coming down from the 10th fret. The second and third are done with the middle and ring fingers. This makes it easier to catch the 2nd fret of the 5th string on the last beat of the measure.

The series of triplets beginning in measure 58 can be a bit awkward since there's an upward movement in the bass (played with the left hand thumb) at the same time as there's a downward movement in the treble.