

The articulation in this piece is really important. The dot is a staccato, telling you to play the note short and detached. The line under the note is a tenuto mark, telling you to give the note its full length. This piece focusses on the contrasts of articulation!

Tennessee Rag

Philip Sparke

Ex: Horn (E♭)
B♭
E♭
F

Moderato $\text{♩} = 126$

8 14 19 24 31

Dynamic markings: *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*

Articulation: staccato (.), tenuto (—), slurs (—), accents (>)

Here's your tempo for the piece!
Moderato simply refers to a moderate tempo.
The metronome mark tells us that there should be 126 beats per minute. As a link, 120 is usually the speed of a march.

In your key signature there aren't any flats or sharps, so watch out for any accidentals. Then the time signature tells us that there are 4 beats in a bar.

This is our starting dynamic marking – *mp*
mp is short for mezzo piano (moderately soft).

Watch out for accidentals! (That's when you have flats or sharps that aren't written in the key signature.) If there are accidentals in a bar, the next bar goes back to normal.

This is a crescendo. It tells you to gradually get louder.
So for this one, gradually increase your dynamic to *f* (forte)

This is an accent, telling us to play this note with a little more force than you would on a normal note.

The title gives us an idea of the style this piece should be played in. A rag should be played in a swung style so think about a jazzy style of music.
Play your quavers swung (uneven) instead of straight and even.

You have 2 sets of lines here. The line between the 2 C's is a tie, meaning you add the notes together to make it longer. The line between the A & C is a slur, telling you to not tongue these notes but almost slide from one to the next!

This is a diminuendo. This tells you to gradually get quieter. At this point, you need gradually get quieter, going from *mf* to *mp*.

This piece has a great focus on articulation (slurs/staccato/tenuto/accents) so try not to miss any out!
Focus on dynamics when playing because there are lots of dynamic changes in the piece!