



US National Standard in Culture

29

R&B Melisma

Song:

Scott Joplin: *The Easy Winners*

← Syllabic → Melismatic →

Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day Al - le - lu - la!

Melisma is the singing of a single syllable of text while moving between several different notes in succession. Music sung in this style is referred to as **melismatic**, as opposed to **syllabic**, in which each syllable of text is matched to a single note.

It is used for gregorian chants, for Torah chanting, Mozart's Requiem Mass in D Minor.

Michael Jackson: More disciplines we found...melisma is also used in the music of Stevie Wonder.

Stevie Wonder: He taught it to me. It is central in R&B

Scott Joplin: You hear it in this piece.

MOSES: I would add killing and sadism to that “high
hallucinate.”

“All hallucinate drugs are poison.”

Mother Mary