

Béla Bartók



15 Hungarian Peasant Songs

orig. for piano (1914-18)

Arranged for String Orchestra

by Alan Bonds

(Parts)

FIFTEEN HUNGARIAN PEASANT SONGS (1914)

The Fifteen Hungarian Peasant Songs (*Tizenöt magyar paraszt'dal*) for piano were written during World War I, and are based on authentic Hungarian folk melodies collected by Bartók on his numerous field trips as a musicologist between the years 1910 and 1918.

In a note for the planned first edition of his Hungarian Peasant Songs in 1914, Bartók wrote that “the melodies published here are folksongs in the truest sense of the word; more precisely, peasant songs”. Bartók initially withdrew this work from publication, however, and added new pieces to it using folk music he had collected in the meantime. The first edition was only finally published in 1920.

The first four of its short sections are labeled as *Four Old Tunes*, followed by a *Scherzo* and a *Ballade*. The last nine sections are grouped under the title *Old Dance Tunes*.

They follow the 2 books of *For Children* based on Hungarian & Slovakian folk melodies. Significantly, Bartók also finished the *Bagatelles* and the *10 Easy Pieces* at the same time, but the publisher Rozsavölgy didn't want anything quite so experimental or modern (especially as in the *Bagatelles*). In a letter to Bartók he says:

“I wish to emphasize that it would be better if the rules of classical harmony would be even more strictly observed without any modernization than in the ones already published. I should not like to see a new trend in the undertaking but rather the beaten track on which you can continue working from time to time...”

Szelényi observes that this was simply a reflection of the conservatism of the time. However, within these strictures, Bartók was determined to set his folk melodies in a manner which reflected their modality. He wished to move beyond the clichéd diatonic accompaniments common at this time. In a lecture, Bartók said:

“It is always important, however, that the musical mantle in which we dress the melody should be related to the character of the melody as well as the musical traits openly or disguisedly inherent in the melody. In other words, so that the melody and every addition to it should create the impression of being an organic entity.”

Sz.71

Year/Date of Composition: 1914-18

First Publication: 1920

I-Catalogue Number: IBB 15

Movements/Sections: 15 pieces:

Four old tunes / Négy régi keserves ének (1). Rubato (D minor, 26 bars)

Four old tunes (2). Andante (D dorian, 47 bars)

Four old tunes (3). Poco rubato (F phrygian, 13 bars)

Four old tunes (4). Andante (F# dorian, 16 bars)

Scherzo Allegro (C dorian, 47 bars)

Ballad (Theme with variations) Andante (G dorian, 43 bars)

Old dance tunes / Regi táncdalok (1). Allegro (C dorian, 51 bars)

Old dance tunes (2). Allegretto (G dorian, 24 bars)

Old dance tunes (3). Allegretto (A mixolydian, 16 bars)

Old dance tunes (4). L'istesso (B dorian, 32 bars)

Old dance tunes (5). Assai moderato (A dorian, 36 bars)

Old dance tunes (6). Allegretto (A minor, 21 bars)

Old dance tunes (7). Poco più vivo (D dorian, 18 bars)

Old dance tunes (8). Allegro (A major, 39 bars)

Old dance tunes (9). Allegro (Bb mixolydian, 103 bars)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

A couple of the pieces have been transposed to more suitable string keys.

In order to see Bartók's original phrasings in the piano version, they have been retained and some bowings overlaid. Every care has been taken to preserve the natural song or dance accentuations, usually taking strong beats on down bows and weak beats on up bows in the traditional way. Bartók's hierarchy of accentuations is very detailed & clear and has been faithfully retained.

Likewise Bartók's articulations are always very clear and have been scrupulously retained. Only a few are specifically pianistic and require interpretation.

A few fingerings have been suggested, mostly to restrain players from using too sophisticated an approach, and sometimes to deliberately encourage the use of open strings in the dances.

Alan Bonds
Perth, Western Australia
September 2006
abonds@swiftdsl.com.au

FIFTEEN HUNGARIAN PEASANT SONGS

Four Old Tunes

arr. Alan Bonds

Béla Bartók

(1915 - 18)

1. Rubato. (♩ = ca. 80 -70)

1. Rubato. (♩ = ca. 80 -70)

f *meno f*

mf *f* *p* *dim.* *pp*

2.

Andante (♩ = 80) Poco sostenuto (♩ = 66)

Andante (♩ = 80) Poco sostenuto (♩ = 66)

mf espr. *mp* *poco rit* *Più Andante (Tempo I.)*

mf *p* *mf* *poco rit* *p* *poco allargando*

div. *mf dolce* *p*

3. Poco Rubato (♩ = 100-80)

f *poco rit.* *a tempo* *menof*

8 *Sostenuto* *dim.*

4. Andante (♩ = 84)

f *poco rit.* *(a tempo)* *poco rit.*

9 *meno f* *cresc.* *sf*

5. Scherzo

Allegro (♩ = 132)

p *mf* *tr*

9 *sf* *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

18 *Sostenuto, poco rubato* *mf espr.* *meno f*

30 *Tempo 1 (tempo giusto)* *poco rit a tempo* *pp*

40 *p* *p*

6. Ballad

(Theme with variations)

Andante (♩ = 114) *poco allarg.* 9

f pesante *sempre simile*

9 Più andante (♩ = 144)

mp espr. *cresc.*

14 *cresc.* *f pesante* TUTTI

19 *allarg.* *solì* *pp dolcissimo*

23 *ritard.* *smorz.* Più andante (♩ = 144)

p cantabile *poco cresc.* TUTTI

28 *ritard. molto* Più andante

f *mf* *cresc.*

34 *allarg. molto* Maestoso (♩ = 126)

f marc. *più f*

39 *allarg.* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sff* *sff* *sff*

7. Old Dance Tunes

Allegro (♩ = 144)

11 14 TUTTI *f*

32 *ff*

42 *rit.*

8.

Allegretto (♩ = 108)

p

9 SOLO *tranquillo*
dolce

17 TUTTI *mf risoluto*

9.

Allegretto (♩ = 138)

f pesante

10.

L'istesso tempo
(quasi trio)

3 5 SOLO
p leggiero

15 TUTTI
f pesante

24
più f

11.

Assai moderato (♩ = 102)
a 3 battute

f pesante

10

19 *più f*

28

12.

Allegretto (♩ = 112)

sfp leggiero *sfp* sempre *p*

7 *p*

14 *più p* *pp* calando 1

13.

Poco più vivo (♩ = 136)
(quasi trio)

Allegretto

13. Musical score for Violin I, measures 1-18. The tempo is Poco più vivo (♩ = 136) (quasi trio). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. The score consists of two staves. The first staff contains measures 1-9, and the second staff contains measures 10-18. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, *f*, *sfz*, *sfz*, *dim. e calando*, and *pp*. There are also crescendo and decrescendo hairpins.

14.

Allegro (♩ = 160)

14. Musical score for Violin I, measures 1-38. The tempo is Allegro (♩ = 160). The key signature is two sharps (D major). The time signature is 2/4. The score consists of four staves. The first staff contains measures 1-8, the second staff contains measures 9-18, the third staff contains measures 19-28, and the fourth staff contains measures 29-38. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *p*, *p*, *cresc.*, *sf*, *p*, *p*, *cresc.*, *p*, *poco rit.*, and *pp*. There are also crescendo and decrescendo hairpins.

15.

Allegro (♩ = 152)

15

24

f

f

Più vivo (♩ = 172)

42

p

49

sempre più vivo e cresc.

56

sempre più agitato

65

72

f sf sf sf

78

sf sf sf

84

sf sf sf

89

dim.

96

dim. *p* *ff*

FIFTEEN HUNGARIAN PEASANT SONGS

Four Old Tunes

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Béla Bartók

(1915 - 18)

1. Rubato. (♩ = ca. 80 -70)

div. *f* *meno f*

9 *mf* *f*

17 *mf* *p* *dim.* *pp*

2. Andante (♩. = 80) Poco sostenuto (♩. = 66)

8 *mf*

14 *mp* *poco rit* *mf* *p*

20 Più Andante (Tempo I.) 1 5 Poco sostenuto (♩. = 66) div. *mf dolce*

30

35 *poco rit* *p* Più Andante

40 *poco allargando* 1 9 1 1 *pp*

3. Poco Rubato (♩ = 100-80)

1

poco rit.

a tempo

f

meno f

9

Sostenuto

dim.

p

4. Andante (♩ = 84)

poco rit.

(a tempo)

poco rit.

f

9

poco rit.

poco rit.

meno f

sf

1

5. Scherzo

Allegro (♩ = 132)

p

mf

9

sf

mp

cresc.

mf

19

Sostenuto, poco rubato

mf espr.

meno f

31

Tempo 1 (tempo giusto)

poco rit a tempo

pp

40

p

6. Ballad

(Theme with variations)

Andante (♩ = 114) *poco allarg.*

f pesante *sempre simile*

6 *SOLO* *Più andante* (♩ = 144) 8

p dolce

18 *TUTTI* *allarg.*

f pesante *più f* *ritard.*

22 *Poco adagio* (♩ = 60) *pizz.*

ppp *smorz.*

26 *Più andante* (♩ = 144) *ritard. molto* *Più andante*

TUTTI *p cantabile* *poco cresc.* *f* *mf*

31 *cresc.* *allarg. molto* *f marc.*

35 *Maestoso* (♩ = 126)

più f *simile*

39 *allarg.*

ff *sff* *sff*

7. Old Dance Tunes

Allegro (♩ = 144)



12 *mf* SOLO

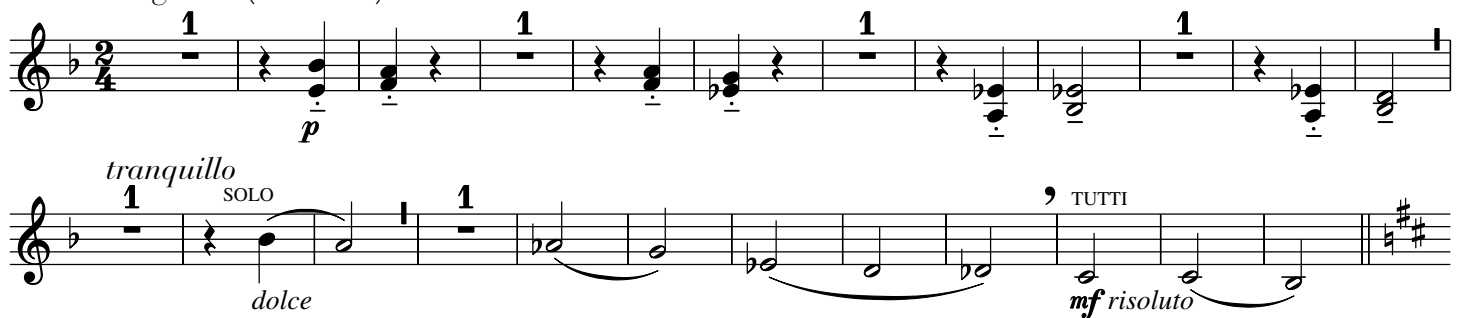
23 *f* TUTTI

32 *ff*

42 *rit.*

8.

Allegretto (♩ = 108)



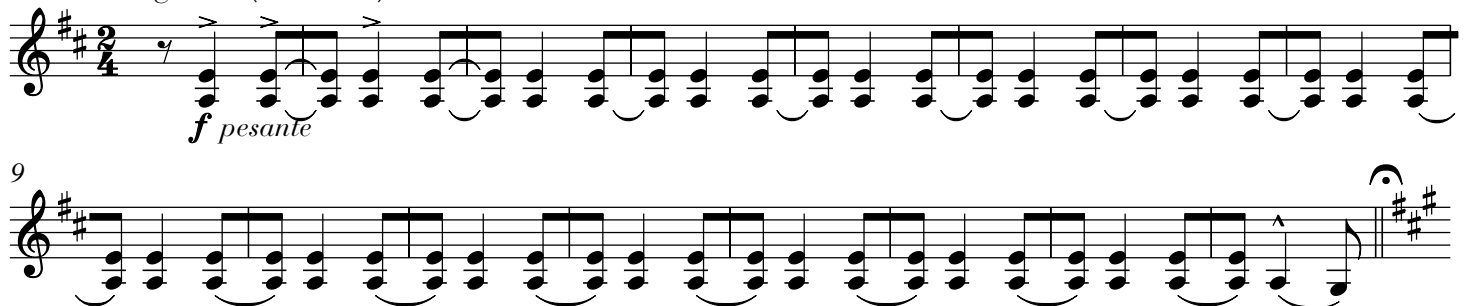
p

tranquillo SOLO *dolce*

TUTTI *mf risoluto*

9.

Allegretto (♩ = 138)



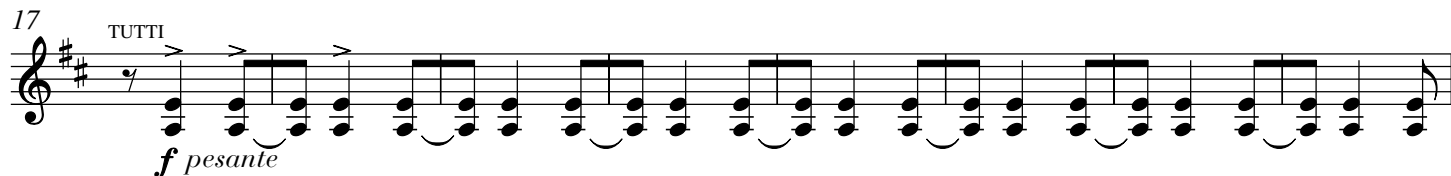
f pesante

9

VIOLIN 2

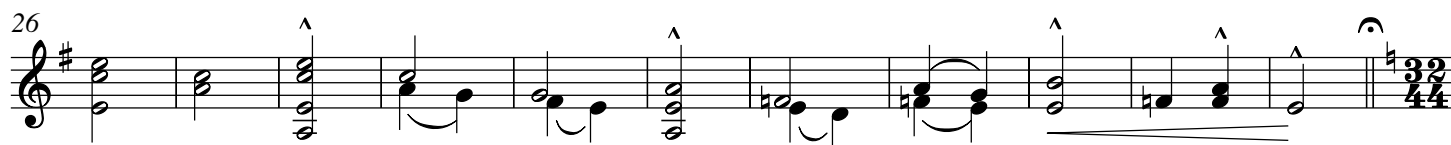
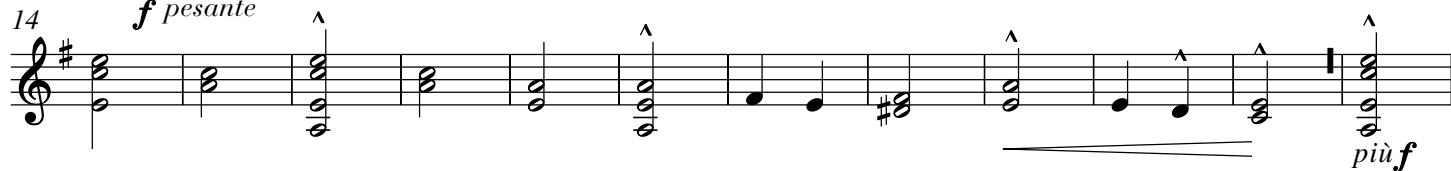
L'istesso tempo
(quasi trio)

10.



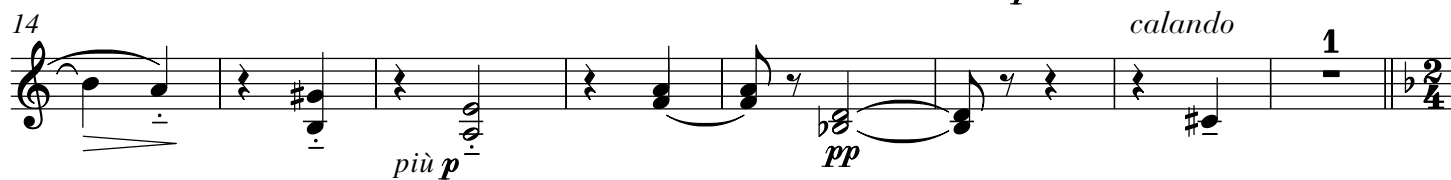
Assai moderato (♩ = 102)
a 3 battute

11.



12.

Allegretto (♩ = 112)



13.

Poco più vivo (♩ = 136)
(quasi trio)

f *mf* *f* *sfp* *dim. e calando* *pp*

Allegretto

14.

Allegro (♩ = 160)

p *mf* *p* *p* *p*

cresc. *cresc.* *poco rit.* *pp*

Allegro (♩ = 152)

Allegro (♩ = 152)

3 1

mf quasi bagpipe

14

24

34

42 **Più vivo (♩ = 172)**

p *sempre più vivo e cresc.*

52

61

sempre più agitato

70

f sf sf sf sf sf sf sf

79

sf sf sf sf sf sf sf sf

89

dim.

96

dim. p ff

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Four Old Tunes

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Béla Bartók
(1915 - 18)

1. Rubato. (♩ = ca. 80 - 70)

f *mf* *f* *mf* *p* *dim.* *pp*

2. Andante (♩. = 80)
div.

p senza colore *calando*

8 Poco sostenuto (♩. = 66)

mf

mp *mf* *p* *poco rit* *Più Andante div.*

mf espr. *Poco sostenuto (♩. = 66)*

mp

cresc. *poco rit* *Più Andante* *p*

pp *poco allargando*

3. Poco Rubato (♩ = 100-80)

1

f

poco rit.

a tempo

meno f

9 *Sostenuto*

dim.

p

4. Andante (♩ = 84)

f

poco rit.

(a tempo)

poco rit.

menof

cresc.

sf

5. Scherzo

Allegro (♩ = 132)

p umoristico

mf

secco

secco

cresc.

mf

Sostenuto, poco rubato

mf

menof

Tempo 1 (tempo giusto)

poco rit.

a tempo

pp

p

p

6. Ballad

(Theme with variations)

Andante (♩ = 114) *poco allarg.*

f pesante *sempre simile*

6 Più andante (♩ = 144) SOLO *p dolce* SOLO *mp*

10 *cresc.*

14 TUTTI *f pesante*

18 *allarg.* *più f* Poco adagio (♩ = 60) *solo* *pp dolcissimo*

23 *ritard.* *smorz.* Più andante (♩ = 144) TUTTI

27 *ritard. molto* *poco cresc.* *f* *mf* Più andante

31 *cresc.* *allarg. molto* *f marc.*

35 Maestoso (♩ = 126) *più f* *sf*

40 *allarg.* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sff* *sff* *sff*

7. Old Dance Tunes

Allegro (♩ = 144)

11

21

31

43

f

mf

ff

rit.

SOLO

TUTTI div.

8.

Allegretto (♩ = 108)

12

p

tranquillo

dolce

mf risoluto

SOLO

TUTTI

9.

Allegretto (♩ = 138)

f pesante

simile

VIOLA

L'istesso tempo
(quasi trio)

10.

SOLO

p leggiero

11

TUTTI

f pesante simile

22

più f

11.

Assai moderato (♩ = 102)
a 3 battute

f pesante

10

19

più f

28

12.

Allegretto (♩ = 112)

sfp leggiero *sfp* sempre *p*

9

p

15

più p *pp* calando 1

The second system of the musical score, marked 'Allegretto', begins with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The key signature changes to one flat (B-flat). The music features a variety of dynamics including *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *sfp* (sforzando piano), *sf* (sforzando), *dim. e calando* (diminuendo and decelerando), and *pp* (pianissimo). The system concludes with a repeat sign and a 3/4 time signature.

Allegro (♩ = 160)

p *mf* *p* *p*

cresc. *sf* *p* *p* *cresc.*

p

poco rit. *pp*

15.

Allegro (♩ = 152)

simile

10

19

28

37

44 **Piu vivo** (♩ = 172)

53

64

72

80

88

96

FIFTEEN HUNGARIAN PEASANT SONGS

Four Old Tunes

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Béla Bartók

(1915 - 18)

1. Rubato. (♩ = ca. 80 - 70)

div. *f* *meno f*

10 *mf* *f*

18 *mf* *p* *dim.* *pp*

2. Andante (♩. = 80)

div. *p senza colore* *calando*

9 Poco sostenuto (♩. = 66)

mf *mp*

16 *poco rit* *mf* *p* *Più Andante (Tempo I.)* *p*

23 *Poco sostenuto (♩. = 66)* *mf espr.*

30 *mp* *cresc.*

36 *poco rit* *Più Andante* *p*

42 *poco allargando* *pp* *espr.*

3. Poco Rubato (♩ = 100-80)

1

f

poco rit.

a tempo

meno f

9

Sostenuto

dim.

p

4. Andante (♩ = 84)

f

poco rit.

(a tempo)

poco rit.

9

meno f

poco rit.

sf

5. Scherzo

Allegro (♩ = 132)

p umoristico

mf

8

sf

p

secco

secco

15

cresc.

mf

mp

24

mf

Sostenuto, poco rubato

meno f

Tempo 1 (tempo giusto)

33

poco rit.

a tempo

p

pp

40

p

p

6. Ballad

(Theme with variations)

Andante (♩ = 114) *poco allarg.*

f pesante *sempre simile*

6 Più andante (♩ = 144)

SOLO *p dolce* SOLO *mp*

13 *cresc.* TUTTI *f pesante*

19 *allarg.* *più f* *soli pizz.* *ppp*

24 *ritard.* *smorz.* Più andante (♩ = 144) *ritard. molto* Più andante

poco cresc. p *f* *mf*

30 *cresc.*

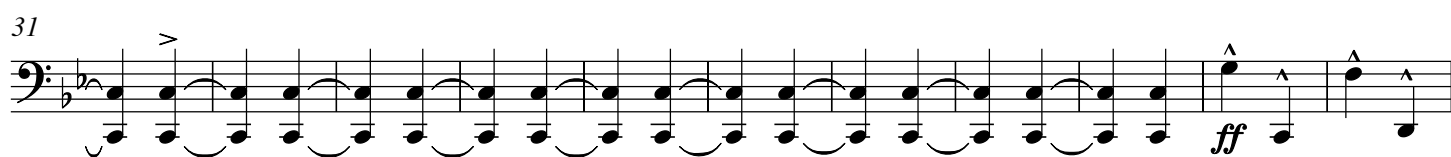
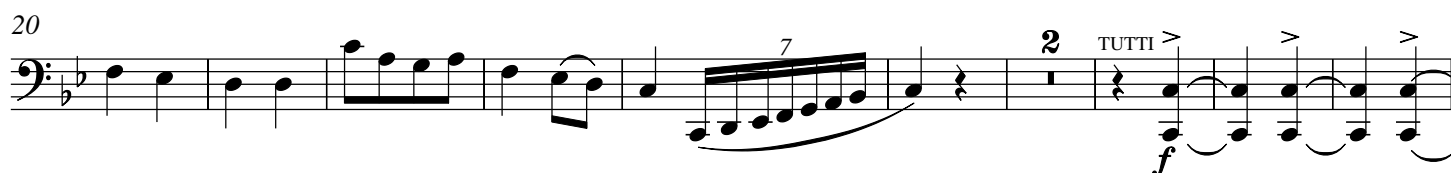
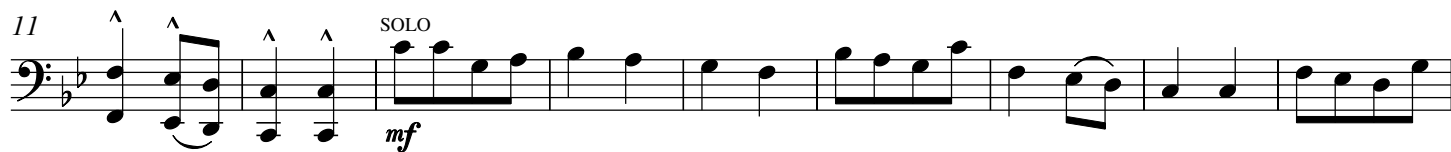
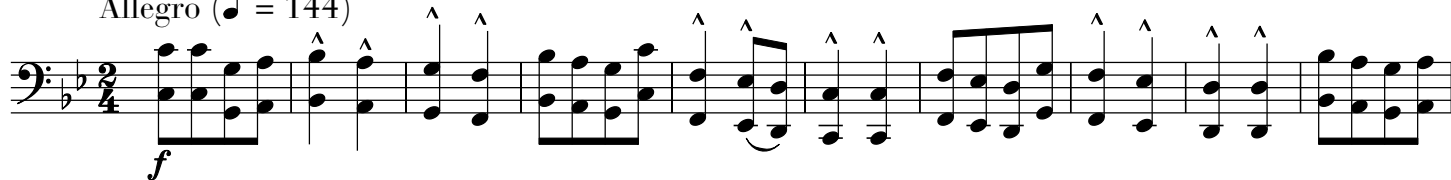
34 *allarg. molto* Maestoso (♩ = 126)

f marc. *più f* *simile*

39 *allarg.* *ff* *sff sff*

7. Old Dance Tunes

Allegro (♩ = 144)



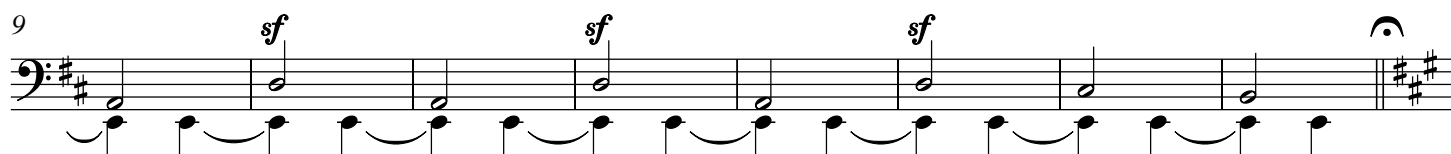
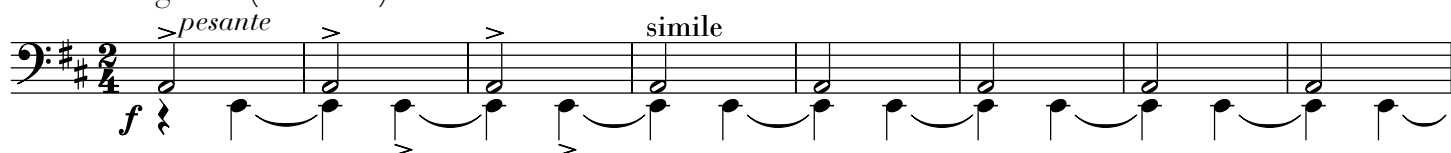
8.

Allegretto (♩ = 108)



9.

Allegretto (♩ = 138)



10.

L'istesso tempo
(quasi trio)

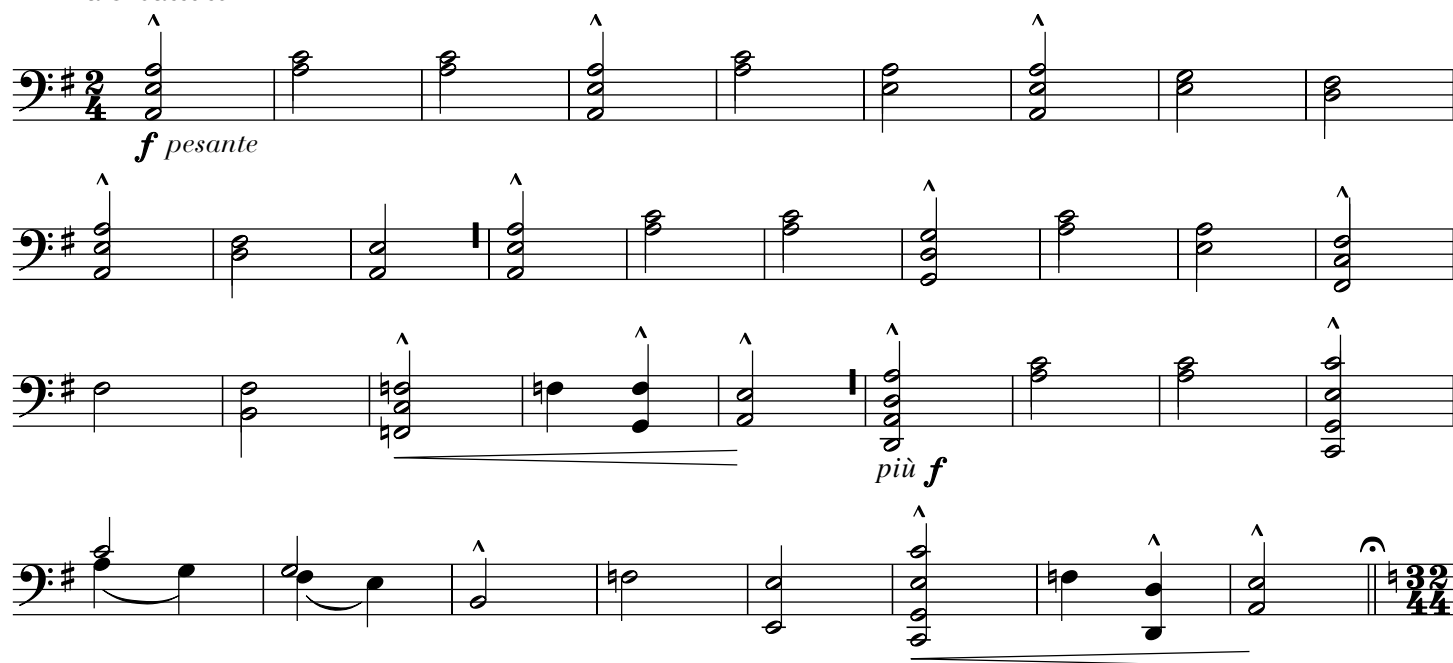
11



22



11.

Assai moderato (♩ = 102)
a 3 battute

12.

Allegretto (♩ = 112)



13.

Poco più vivo (♩ = 136)
(quasi trio)

Allegretto

11

f *mf* *f* *sfz*

sfz *dim. e calando* *pp*

14.

Allegro (♩ = 160)

p *mf* *p* *p*

cresc. *sf* *p* *p* *cresc.*

p

6 *pp* *poco rit.*

15.

Allegro (♩ = 152)

11

22

29

35

Piú vivo (♩ = 172)

41

p *sempre più vivo e cresc.*

53

63

sempre più agitato.

71

fsf sf sf

79

sf sf sf sf sf sf

87

95

dim. p ff

FIFTEEN HUNGARIAN PEASANT SONGS

Four Old Tunes

arr. Alan Bonds

Béla Bartók
(1915 - 18)

1. Rubato. (♩ = ca. 80 - 70)

10

18

f *mf* *f* *p* *dim.* *pp*

2.

Andante (♩ = 80)

p senza colore *calando*

11 Poco sostenuto (♩ = 66)

mf *mp* *mf* *poco rit.*

19 Più Andante (Tempo I.)

p *p*

28 Poco sostenuto (♩ = 66)

mf espr. *mp*

34 poco rit. Più Andante

p *p*

41 poco allargando

pp *p*

3. Poco Rubato ($\text{♩} = 100-80$)

3. Poco Rubato ($\text{♩} = 100-80$)

f *poco rit.* *a tempo* *meno f*

9 *Sostenuto* *dim.* *p*

4. Andante ($\text{♩} = 84$)

4. Andante ($\text{♩} = 84$)

f *poco rit.* *(a tempo)* *poco rit.*

9 *poco rit.* *meno f* *sf* *poco rit.*

5. Scherzo

Allegro ($\text{♩} = 132$)

Allegro ($\text{♩} = 132$)

pizz. *p* *mf* *sf*

12 *secco* *cresc.* *mf* *p*

23 *Sostenuto, poco rubato* *Tempo 1 (tempo giusto)* *poco rit* *p*

38 *a tempo* *pp* *p* *p*

6. Ballad (Theme with variations)

Andante (♩ = 114) *poco allarg.*

f pesante *sempre simile*

10 Più andante (♩ = 144) *4 SOLO* *mp* *cresc.*

16 *TUTTI* *allarg.* *Poco adagio (♩ = 60)* *solo pizz.* *ppp*

f pesante *più f*

22 *ritard.* *smorz.* *Più andante (♩ = 144)* *3* *1* *Più andante* *3* *1* *ritard. molto*

33 *allarg. molto* *1* *1* *Maestoso (♩ = 126)* *simile* *allarg.*

più f

39 *ff* *sff sff*

7. Old Dance Tunes

Allegro (♩ = 144)

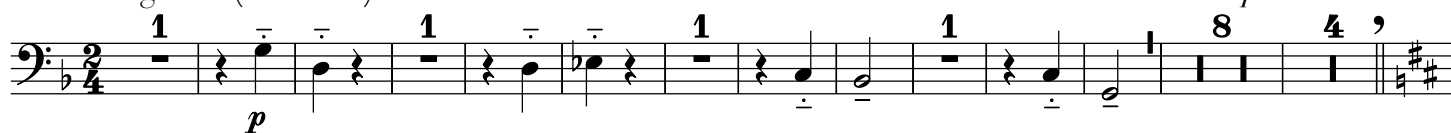
f

10 *15* *TUTTI* *f*

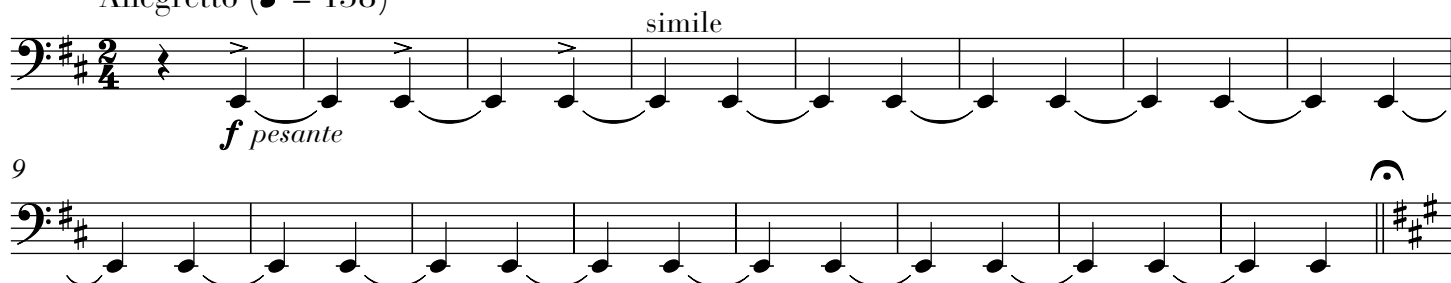
32 *ff*

42 *rit.*

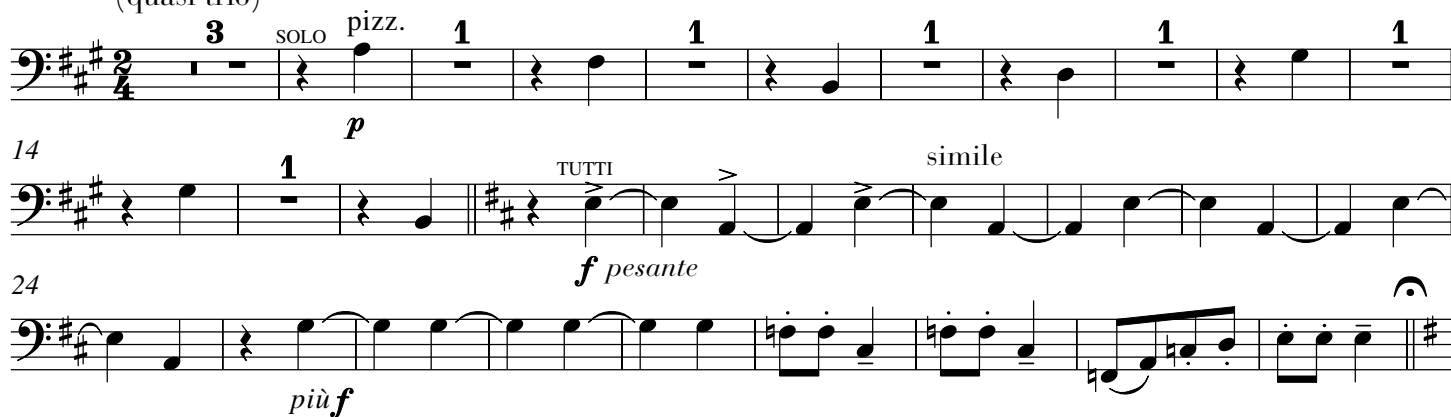
8.

Allegretto ($\text{♩} = 108$)

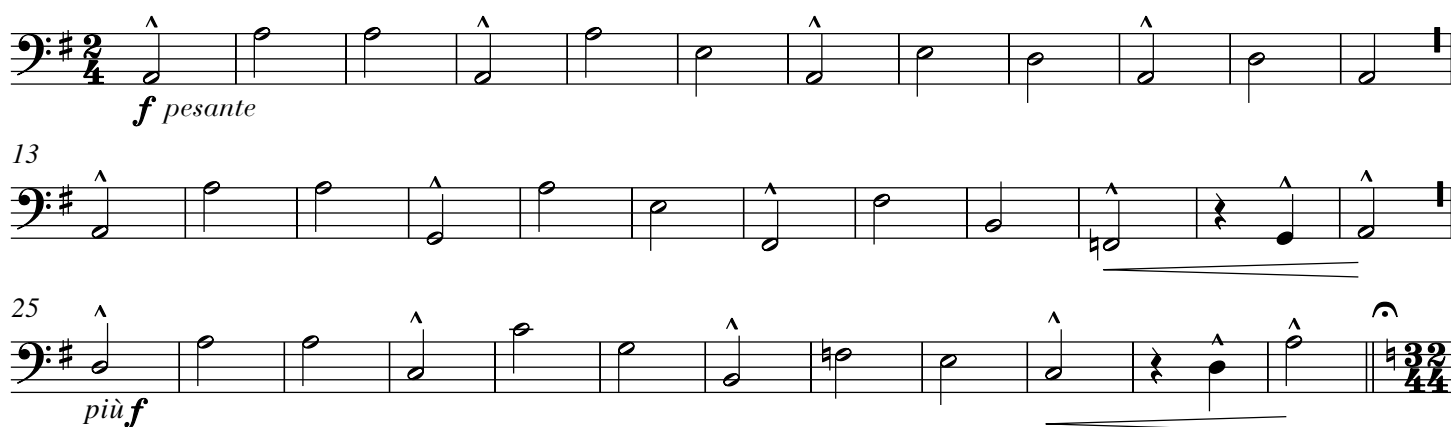
9.

Allegretto ($\text{♩} = 138$)

10.

L'istesso tempo
(quasi trio)

11.

Assai moderato ($\text{♩} = 102$)
a 3 battute

15.

Allegro (♩ = 152)

11



21



31



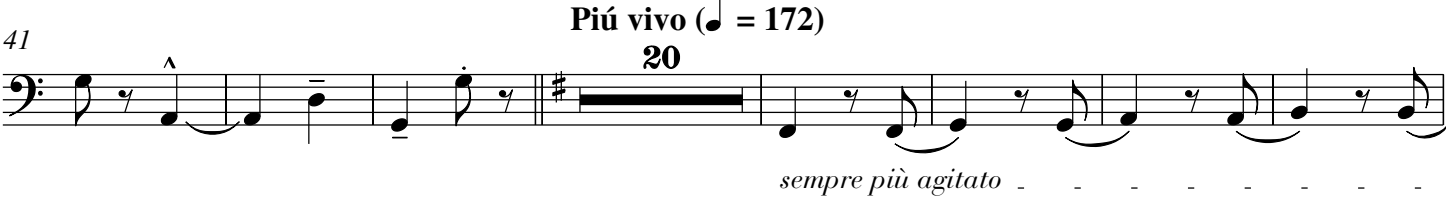
41



Piú vivo (♩ = 172)

20

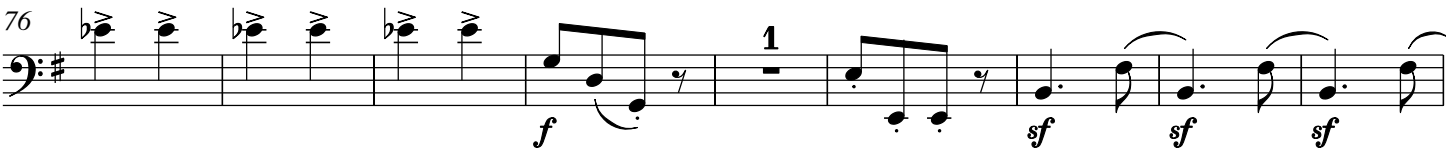
sempre più agitato - - - - -



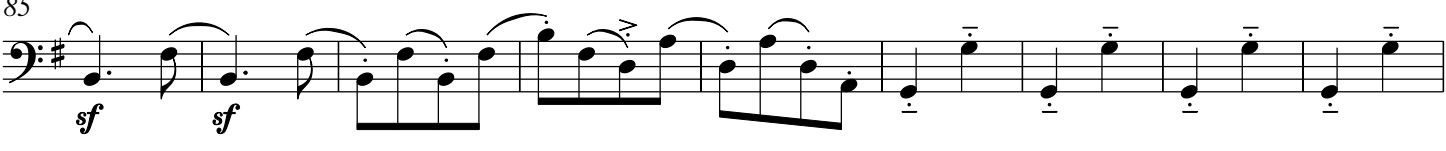
68



76



85



94

dim. - - - - - p ff

