

Vera Lampert: Folk Music in Bartók's Compositions

Handbook for all Bartók Scholars



Bela Bartók around 1926

More than a third of Béla Bartók's compositions are folksong arrangements. This catalog brings together all the melodies that appear in these compositions. They were selected from manuscript and published documents of Bartók's ethnomusicological work. All the data pertaining to the original performances of the melodies – the singers' or performers' name, age, the place and time the song or instrumental piece was recorded – can be found in the commentaries to the melodies in the catalog. The accompanying compact disc contains all available surviving original recordings of the melodies. This is an essential handbook for anyone interested in the decisive influence of folk music on Bartók's work.

With CD (MP3 files) of all available original phonograph recordings by Béla Bartók
 Helikon Publisher Budapest 2008, ISBN 978-963-227164-4
 Hardcover, 244 pages, HN 2617 € 78.–
 Sole distribution, except for Hungary by G. Henle Publishers

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60 FOLK MUSIC IN BARTÓK'S COMPOSITIONS

10 Poco rubato HUNGARIAN FOLKSONGS, 1906 (BB 42), 7

Szá - raz ág - tól mesz - sze vi - rit a ró - zsa,
 Bár - csak so - ha ne sze - ret - te - lek vol - na.

The rose is blooming far from the dry branch.
 If only I had never loved you.

Lidi Dósa (18), Kibéd (Maros-Torda), November 1904.
 Source: *MS master sheet*, Bartók System C-IV 1231a (12388).

tempo giusto HUNGARIAN FOLKSONGS, 1906 (BB 42), 8

Vé - gig - mēn - tem a tár - ká - nyi, se j, haj, fő - uc - cán,
 Be - te - kin - tēt - tem a ba - bám ab - la - kán.
 Ép - pen ak - kor ve - tēt - te még pap - la - nos á - gyát,
 Roz - ma - ring - gal sēp - rēt - te ki pin - gált szo - bá - ját.

I was walking down the main street of Tárkány, hey,
 I looked through the window of my sweetheart.
 She was making her downy bed,
 And sweeping her painted room with rosemary.

Teréz Kapocsi, Felsőtárkány (Heves), ca. 1899; Phon. rec. **MH 187a**, collected by B. Vikár.
 Sources: (A) *MS master sheet*, Bartók System B 1141a (08265), footnoted variant; (B) in print: HFM no. 124.
 The main melody on the master sheet is a variant collected by Bartók in Békésgyula (Békés), August 1906.

Sample page from the catalogue

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A Source Catalog

Arab, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian,
 Serbian, and Slovak Melodies