

Béla Bartók

VIII

**from *Eight Improvisations on Hungarian Peasant Songs*
op. 20 (1920)**

**In an new orchestration by
Mark Gotham**

Notes:

- Transposing score. Transpositions include those given in the list of instrumentation, as well as the standard octave transpositions of the piccolo, contrabassoon and double bass.
- Duration: approximately 3 minutes
- Double bass part: small note heads indicate the alternative note for those players without the bottom string C-extension or low 5th string.
- String and percussion tremolo: two lines indicate measured notes; 3 lines indicate unmeasured tremolo.

Instrumentation:

Piccolo

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

Cor Anglais

3 Clarinets in Bb (3rd Doubling Eb)

2 Bassoons

Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F

3 Trumpets in Bb

2 Tenor Trombones

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Percussion:

Clash Cymbals (21'' preferred)

Bass Drum (32-36'' preferred)

Snare Drum (standard 14'' x 5 1/2'' preferred)

Tam-Tam (large, deep, 38'' / 40'' preferred)

Triangle (high, 6'' preferred)

Tubular Bells (Standard 1 1/2 octave range C4 - F5)

3 Timpani: 25'' (F3 to G3); 28'' (C3); 30'' (Gb2 to A2)

Strings

Glossary of Articulations (verbatim transcription from Bartók's 1916 edition of J.S. Bach's *Anna Magdalena Notebook*)

- ↑ ↑ ↑ = 'sharp staccato (staccatissimo) implying a certain accentuation and heaviness and stronger tone colour.'
- . . . = 'the regular staccato, whereby the sounding of the note ranges from the shortest in value to half the value of the note.'
- ⤿ = 'portamento [portato], whereby the tones must be permitted to sound almost up to half the note value in conjunction with a certain special colouring.'
- ⏏ = 'the symbol for half-shortening (the tones should not sound shorter than half the note value).'
- — — = 'the tenuto above different notes signifies that they must be held for their entire value; when above each note of a group, that we must permit the notes to sound together through their entire note value if possible, without linking them to one another.'
- ⤿ = 'the well-known legato symbol, which we are also using, in the case of legato parts, for marking the phrase for lack of another symbol.'
- sf* = 'the strongest accentuation.'
- ^ = 'accentuation still forceful enough.'
- > = 'weak accentuation.'
- — — = 'the tenuto symbol above the different tones of the legato parts signifies delicately emphasising the tone by way of a different tone colouring.'

Glossary of Less-Common Italian Terms

Brioso: brilliant, lively, energetic

Leggero: light, detached (interchangeable with leggiero).

(Con) Slancio: (with) dash, impetus (more common in virtuosic showpieces)

Strepitoso: noisy, boisterous

Stridente: shrill, strident

Rumoroso: noisy, loud

Tranquillo: Calm (Bartók is one of few composers to use this as a metronome mark)