The
MAYRON COLE PIANO METHOD

FUN SHEET

BELA BARTOK
(1881 - 1945)



BELA BARTOK was born in **TRANSYLVANIA**. This small European country later became part of Hungary. BARTOK began studying piano when he was six years old and wrote short music compositions by the age of nine years.

BARTOK loved to hear the beautiful, and sometimes sad, gypsy music of his country. He realized that if no one wrote down these gypsy tunes, the tunes would probably be lost to the world forever. BARTOK used an old-fashioned recording machine to help him remember the gypsy folk tunes. He would travel from village to village and ask the people to sing their favorite folk songs or gypsy songs into his recording machine. Soon, BARTOK had recorded over **five thousand** folk and gypsy songs! He converted many of these special tunes into piano pieces for young musicians.

THEN, a great and horrible war began in his part of Europe. It was later called World War II. Many of the gypsies would die in this war. BARTOK, with his wife, managed to move to the United States. Unable to speak the English language, BARTOK found it difficult to attract music students. Soon, all of his money was gone. BARTOK, the great European composer, was penniless. BARTOK was too proud to ask for money or for food. He and his wife went hungry. Soon, he became sick and died. When American musicians realized what had happened to BARTOK, they were outraged; but, it was too late!

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DO YOU KNOW?

1. BELA BARTOK was born in_____and died in_____.
(what year?) (what year?)

2. BARTOK was born in TRANSYLVANIA. This country later became part of_____.
(Russia or Hungary?)

3. BARTOK began studying piano when he was _____.
(six years old or a teenager?)

4. How old was BARTOK when he first began writing short compositions?_____
(15 years old or 9 years old?)

5. BARTOK loved to hear the beautiful, and sometimes sad, _____music of his country.
(Indian or gypsy?)

6. BARTOK would go from village to village recording FOLK SONGS and GYPSY TUNES. He soon recorded over _____thousand of these tunes.
(three or five?)

7. BARTOK turned several of these gypsy tunes into music for young musicians. _____
(yes or no?)

8. When World War II began, BARTOK escaped to the_____with his wife.
(United States or mountains?)

9. BARTOK could not earn enough money in his new country because he could not speak_____.
(English or Spanish?)

10. BARTOK died in poverty without enough money for food. When American musicians found out, they were_____.
(outraged or silent?)

F R E E P I A N O M E T H O D . C O M
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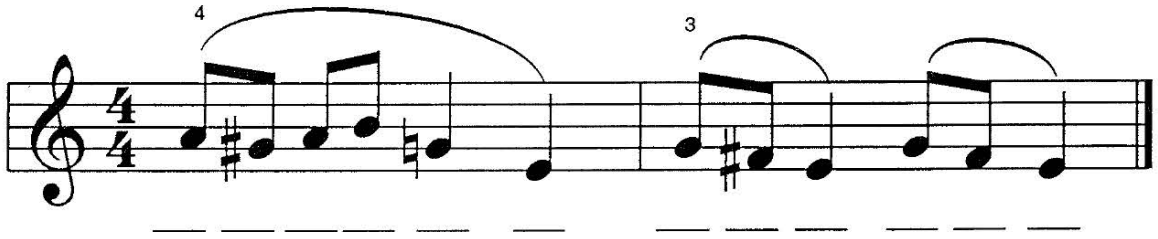
VAGABOND'S SONG
BARTOK

1. This little **GYPSY TUNE** is found in measures 1 & 2 and also in measures 7 & 8.

   Write the letter names below these notes. When you go to the piano, play this little **GYPSY TUNE** three times. Next, play the tune once for your teacher:





2. The **DYNAMIC MARKINGS** in **VAGABOND'S SONG** make the piece interesting! Remember the definition of these dynamic markings:

   mf means "mezzo FORTE" and means to play medium_____.
   (loud or soft?)

   f means "FORTE" and tells you to play_____.
   (softly or loudly?)

   mp stands for "mezzo PIANO" and tells you to play medium _____.
   (soft or loud?)

   p stands for "PIANO" and tells you to play _____.
   (loudly or softly?)

   pp means "PIANISSIMO" and tells you to play VERY_____.
   (loudly or softly?)

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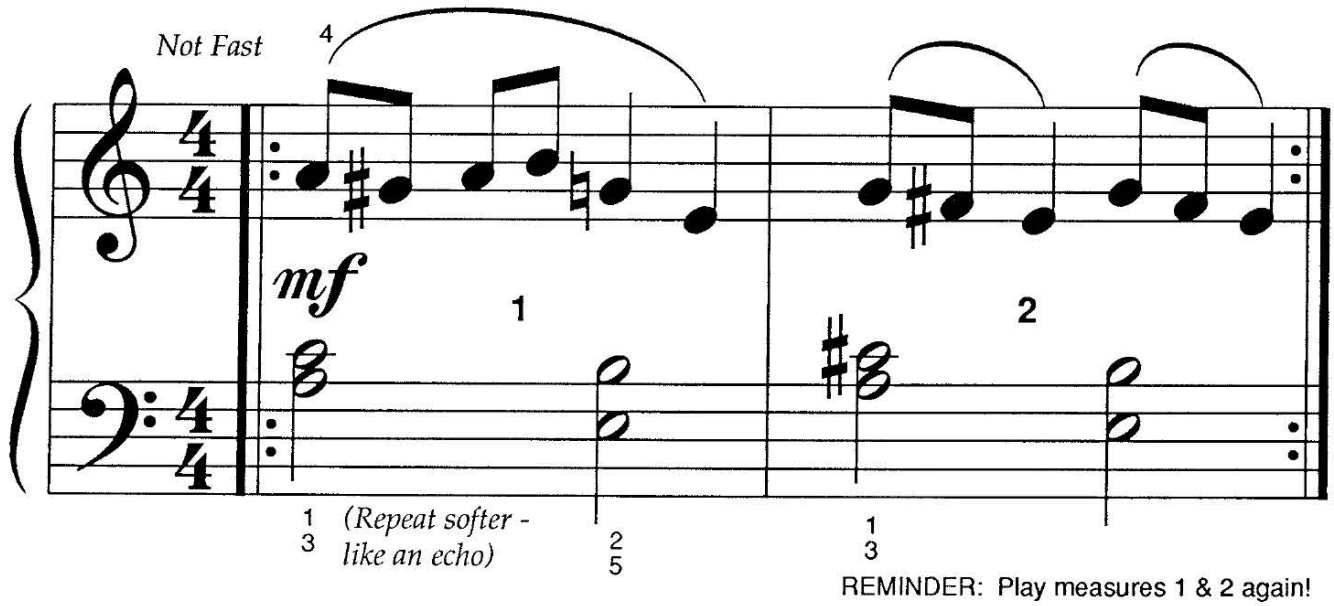
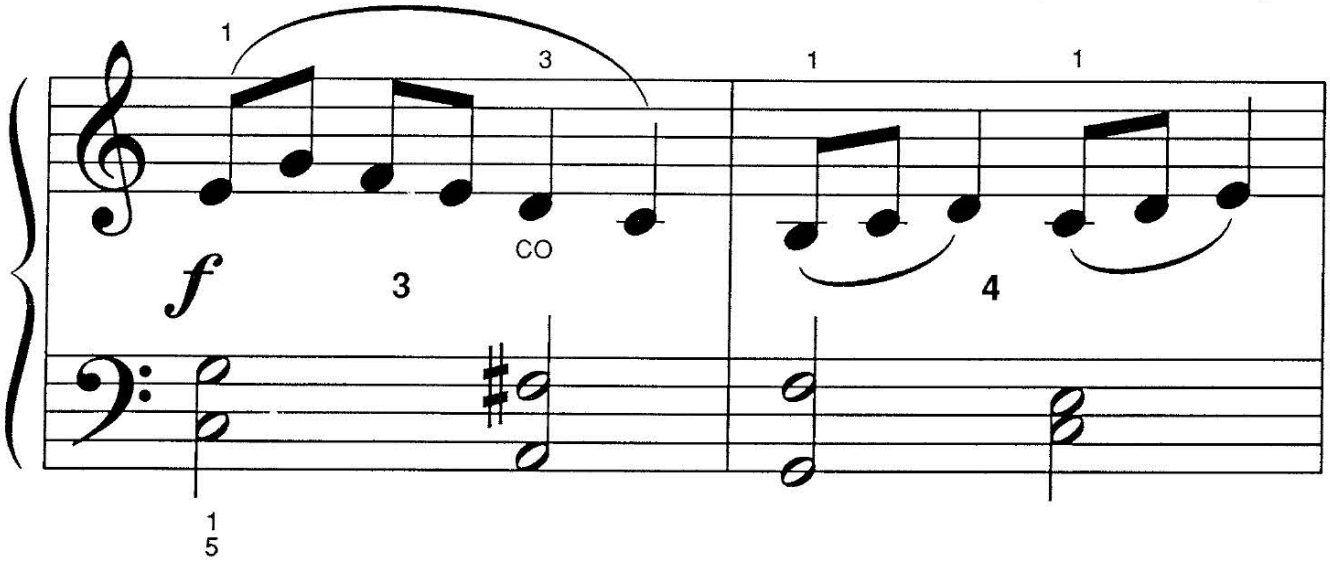
VAGABOND'S SONG

B. BARTOK
(1881-1945)

(orchestrated accompaniment has a 2 measure count-in)



REMINDER: Play measures 1 & 2 again!



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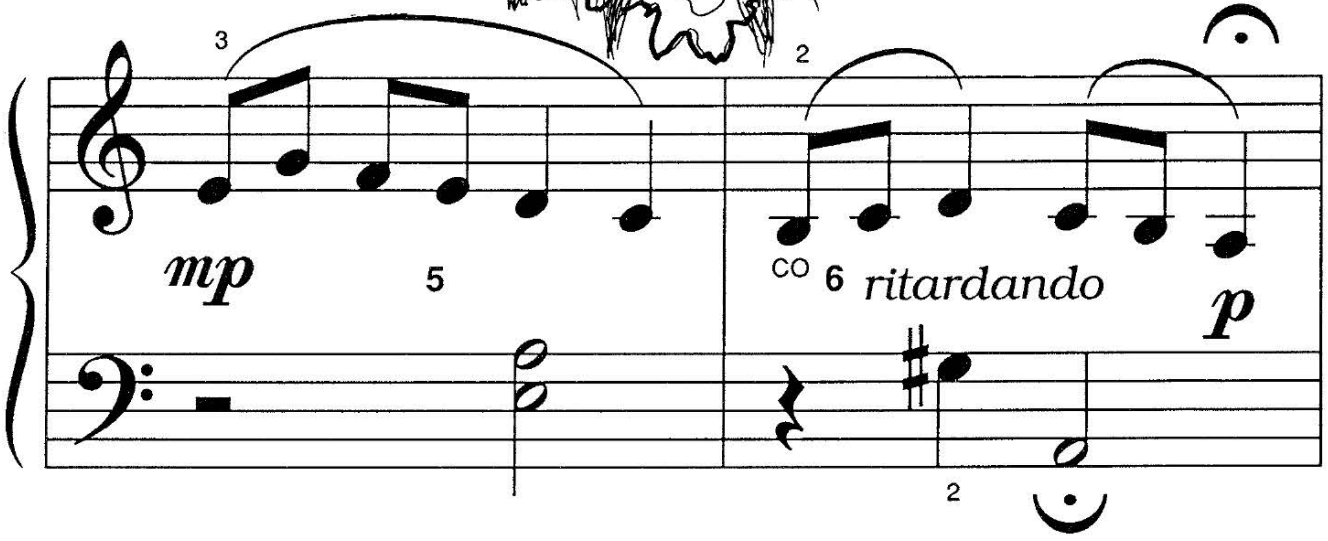

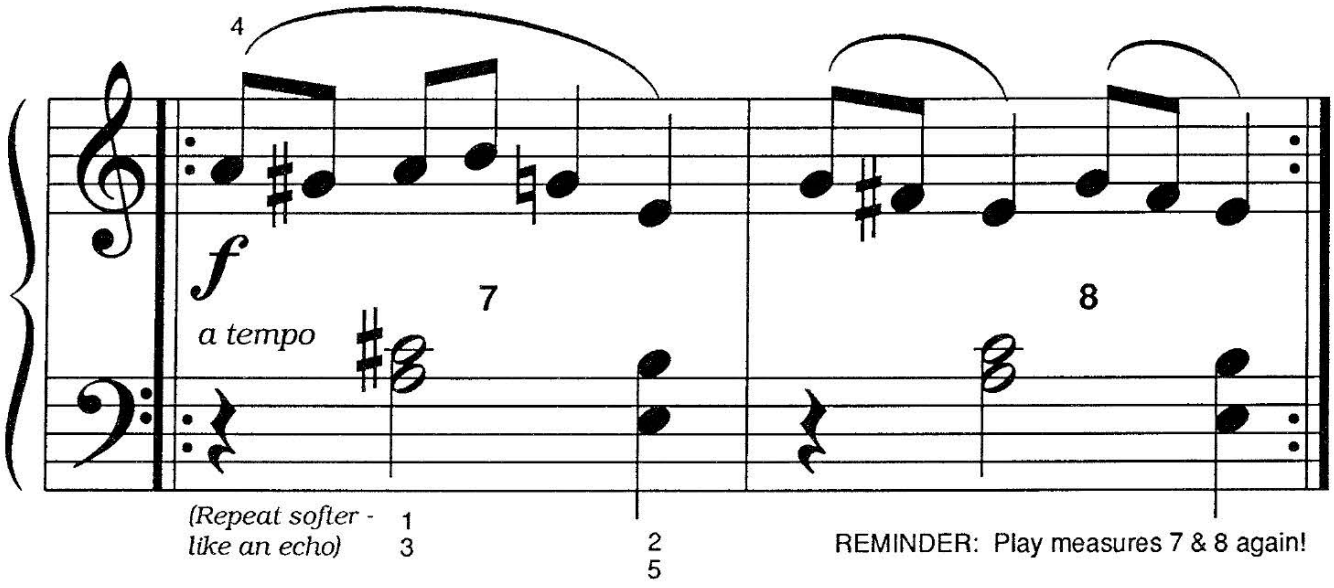

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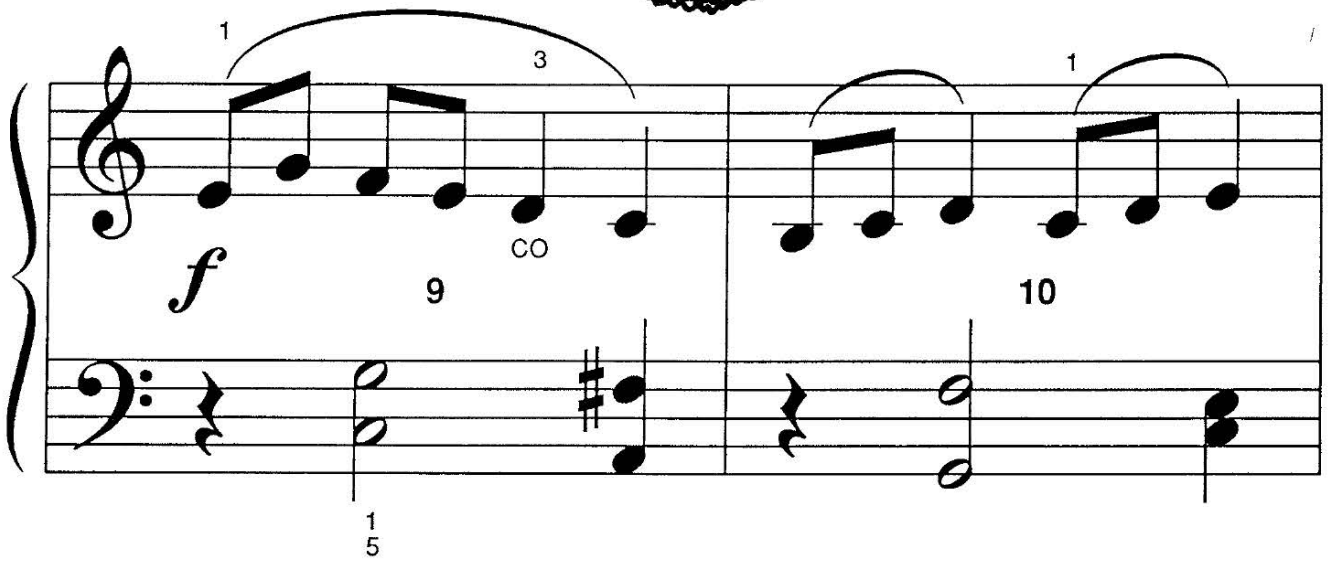

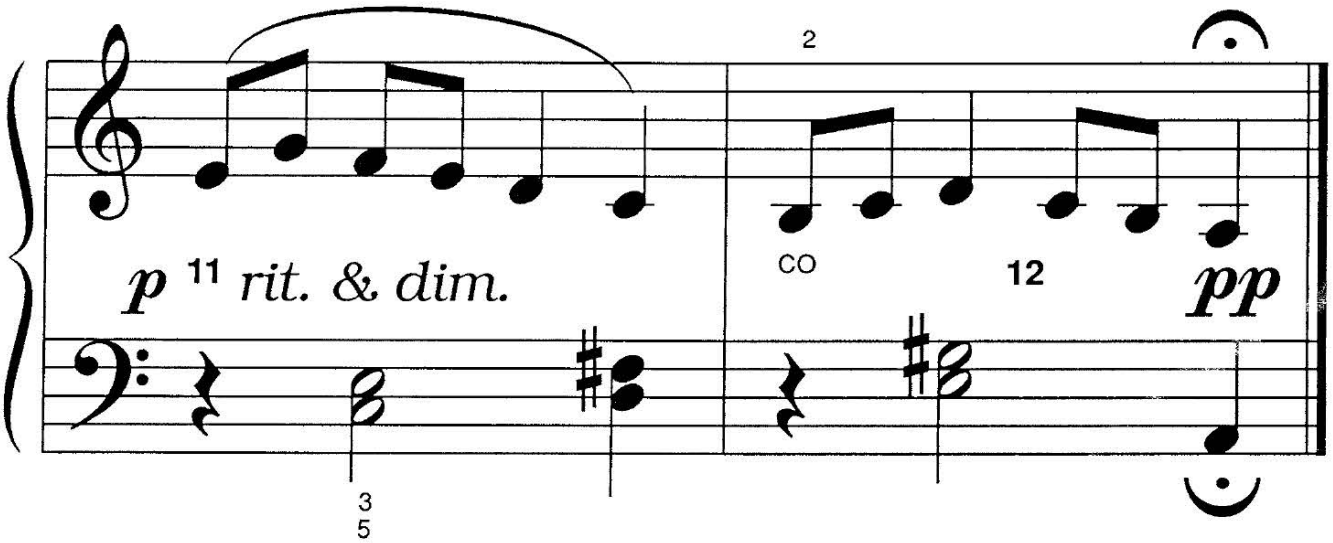

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