

# "SPOON RIVER"

## American Folk-dance

The fiddle tune below was sent me by Capt. Charles H. Robinson in the summer of 1915, at my request, after he had written me in regard to *Spoon River Anthology* that he had heard the old fiddlers play this tune when he lived in Stark County, Illinois, in 1857.

*Edgar Lee Masters*

February 11th. 1922.

# "Spoon River"

## Fiddle-tune

as heard in 1857 at a dance at Bradford, Illinois, U. S. A.,  
by Capt. Charles H. Robinson



*Back  
to start*

AMERICAN FOLK-MUSIC SETTINGS

# № 1. "SPOON RIVER"

(For Edgar Lee Masters, poet of pioneers)

American folk-dance, heard played by a fiddler at a country dance at Bradford, Illinois, in 1857, by Capt. Charles H. Robinson

and set for piano by

PERCY ALDRIDGE GRAINGER

Set, March 10, 1919,  
New York City, and  
Jan. 29-30, 1922,  
White Plains, N.Y.

Sturdily, not too fast; with "pioneer"  
persistency. ♩ = about 168

*p detached*

*pp*  
(no pedal except where marked)

small hands *pp*

*Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

This system consists of three staves. The top staff is the right hand, starting with a *p detached* marking. The middle staff is the left hand, starting with a *pp* marking and a note that says "(no pedal except where marked)". The bottom staff is labeled "small hands" and also starts with a *pp* marking. Vertical dotted lines indicate phrasing. Pedal markings (*Ped. \**) are present at the end of the first and second measures of the left hand.

small hands *Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

This system continues the piece with three staves. The top staff is the right hand. The middle staff is the left hand, with a *Ped. \** marking at the end of the first measure. The bottom staff is labeled "small hands" and has a *Ped. \** marking at the end of the second measure. Vertical dotted lines indicate phrasing. Pedal markings (*Ped. \**) are present at the end of the first, second, and fourth measures of the left hand.

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

*detached, top voice to the fore*  
mp  
p (small hands may break)

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

small hands  
p  
mp  
these chords)  
L. H. to the fore  
Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

small hands

*p* *mp*

7 7 7 7

Red. \*

*mp* *sf*

1 2 1 2 1 1 2 2 2

Red. \*

*sf* *sf*

1 2 1 2 3 2

Red. \*

small hands

*etc.* *Top voice much to the fore detached*

*mf* *ff* *f* *short and sharp*

3 2

Red. \*

8

*f*

*fff*

*Red. \** *Red. \**

*Bass hugely to the fore*

*ff* *fff* *ff*

*Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \**

small hands

*Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \**

*The accents very heavy*

*Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \**

*louden*

*pp*

*Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \**

small hands

*Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \** *Red. \**



wrist and arm as stiff as possible

Musical score for the first system. It consists of two systems of piano and small hands parts. The piano part is written in treble and bass clefs. The small hands part is written in treble and bass clefs. The piano part includes markings for 'Ped.' (pedal) and asterisks. The small hands part includes markings for 'Ped.' and asterisks. The tempo is marked '8'.

stiff, as before

Musical score for the second system. It consists of two systems of piano and small hands parts. The piano part is written in treble and bass clefs. The small hands part is written in treble and bass clefs. The piano part includes markings for 'Ped.' and asterisks. The small hands part includes markings for 'Ped.' and asterisks. The tempo is marked '8'. The instruction 'stiff, as before' is written above the piano part. The label 'small hands' is written to the left of the small hands part.

Musical score for the third system. It consists of two systems of piano and small hands parts. The piano part is written in treble and bass clefs. The small hands part is written in treble and bass clefs. The piano part includes markings for 'Ped.' and asterisks. The small hands part includes markings for 'Ped.' and asterisks. The tempo is marked '8'. The dynamic marking 'fff' is written above the piano part. The instruction 'etc.' is written above the small hands part.

*The accents as rough and heavy as possible*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

*accents as before*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

*p*

*(no pedal)*  
*(small hands may break these)*

*detached*

*louden hugely*

*chords)*

*Much slower* ( $\text{♩} = \text{about } 100$ )

*in time* (1st speed)

*Top voice fff*

*fist*

*slacken*

*ff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

Written out in train, Canadian Rockies, March 24, 1929