

"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

The musical score consists of five staves of music in treble clef, 2/4 time. The first three staves form the main melody. The fourth staff is a repeat of the first two measures, marked "2nd time octave higher". The fifth staff is a repeat of the first two measures, marked "1st time" and "2nd time", with a double bar line and repeat sign. Below the fifth staff, the instruction "Back to start" is written.

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"
persistence. ♩ = about 168

p detached

pp
(no pedal except where marked)

small hands *pp*

*Ped. **

*Ped. **

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The upper staff (right hand) begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a detached articulation. The lower staff (left hand) starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. A 'small hands' section is indicated for the left hand in the second measure. Pedal markings with asterisks are present at the end of the first and second measures.

*Ped. **

*Ped. **

small hands *Ped. **

*Ped. **

Detailed description: This system contains the next two measures. The piano part continues with a steady eighth-note rhythm. The 'small hands' section for the left hand continues. Pedal markings with asterisks are present at the end of the first, second, and third measures.

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

detached, top voice to the fore
mp

p

p

(small hands may break)

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

small hands

p

mp

mp

these chords)

L.H. to the fore

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

Red. *

small hands

p *mp*

Ped. *

mp *f*

Ped. *

f

Ped. *

small hands

etc. *Top voice much to the fore detached*

mf *ff* *f*

short and sharp

Ped. *

First system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. Bass line features a series of notes with accents and a dynamic marking of *fff*. Pedal points are indicated by 'Ped.' and asterisks. A performance instruction reads: *Bass hugely to the fore*.

Second system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. Treble line has a dynamic marking of *ff*. Bass line has a dynamic marking of *fff*. Includes a 'small hands' inset with a dynamic marking of *mf*. Pedal points are indicated by 'Ped.' and asterisks.

Third system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. A performance instruction reads: *The accents very heavy*. Pedal points are indicated by 'Ped.' and asterisks.

Fourth system of musical notation. Treble and bass staves. Treble line has a dynamic marking of *pp*. Bass line has a dynamic marking of *louden*. Includes a 'small hands' inset with a dynamic marking of *pp*. Pedal points are indicated by 'Ped.' and asterisks.

8

smoothly

pp

Red.

8

(keep it pp)

Red.

8

Red.

8

(don't louden)

ff *suddenly*

Fingers,

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *

small hands

suddenly ff

Red. *

wrist and arm as stiff as possible

This system contains two systems of music. The upper system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a piano part and a small hand part. The piano part has a tempo marking of 8 and includes dynamic markings like *ff* and *pp*. The small hand part is a single-line staff with notes and rests. Pedaling instructions are shown as "Ped. *" below the piano part and "Ped." below the small hand part. The lower system also consists of a grand staff with piano and small hand parts, with similar pedaling instructions.

stiff, as before

This system contains two systems of music. The upper system consists of a grand staff with piano and small hand parts. The piano part has a tempo marking of 8 and includes dynamic markings like *ff* and *pp*. The small hand part is a single-line staff. Pedaling instructions are shown as "Ped. *" below the piano part and "Ped." below the small hand part. The lower system also consists of a grand staff with piano and small hand parts, with similar pedaling instructions.

small hands

This system contains two systems of music. The upper system consists of a grand staff with piano and small hand parts. The piano part has a tempo marking of 8 and includes dynamic markings like *ff* and *pp*. The small hand part is a single-line staff. Pedaling instructions are shown as "Ped. *" below the piano part and "Ped." below the small hand part. The lower system also consists of a grand staff with piano and small hand parts, with similar pedaling instructions.

small hands

The accents as rough and heavy as possible

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

accents as before

p

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

detached

louden hugely

chords)

Much slower (♩ = about 100)

in time (1st speed)

Top voice fff

fist fff

slacken

ff *fff* *fff*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

Written out in train, Canadian Rockies, March 24, 1923