

Bartók
For Children
Vol. I.



Dávid Báll
Piano



HUNNIA RECORDS



Dávid Báll

Steinway Model D Concert Grand Piano, Hamburg

Béla Bartók's decision to write pedagogical pieces continued a tradition established by great composers, such as Johann Sebastian Bach's *Inventions and Sinfonias*, originally composed for his eldest son, and Robert Schumann's *Album for the Young*, Op. 68, written for his three daughters. In 1908, Bartók composed the first of his instructional works, *Ten Easy Pieces for Piano*, followed by *For Children* between 1908 and 1909. He also contributed teaching pieces for the *Piano School* (*Zongoraiskola*, 1913, co-authored with Sándor Reschofsky). His last pedagogical work for piano was *Mikrokosmos*, written between 1926 and 1939.

Bartók believed that most available materials for beginners lacked real musical value, with very few exceptions. Recognizing the inherent musical worth of folk melodies, he decided to use them as the foundation for his pieces. The first edition of *For Children* was published between 1909 and 1911 in four volumes, consisting of two volumes of Hungarian folksong arrangements and two of Slovak folksong arrangements. In autumn 1943, in collaboration with his new publisher Boosey&Hawkes, he meticulously revised the collection for a new edition.

The pieces in *For Children* are true miniature masterpieces. The simplicity and beauty of the folk tunes are captivating. Despite this, they are not commonly part of the piano concert repertoire. While some of the arrangements are frequently used in elementary music schools in Hungary, the complete volumes are rarely performed on stage. I have worked with these pieces for several years, and they have become a significant part of my repertoire. My performances and this recording reflect the revised 1943 version by Bartók, edited by László Vikárius and published by Editio Musica Budapest/G. Henle Verlag. For a few pieces (Nos. 15, 18, 21 and 26), I have closely followed Bartók's own recordings.

Dávid Báll

Contributing editor: dr. Ioanna Tsakirpoulou

To my beloved children





Recording setup

Main microphones: **2 x DPA4011**

Room microphones: **2 x Schoeps MK2 H**

Recorded audio format: **Native DSD256** (Pyramix, Merging Hapi)

Sound Engineer: **Sándor Árok**

Track list

01	No. 1. Children at Play – Let's bake something: Allegro	00:28
02	No. 2. Children's Song – Come out, Sun: Andante	00:55
03	No. 3. I've lost my companion: Quasi adagio	00:52
04	No. 4. Pillow Dance – I've lost my handkerchief: Allegro	00:39
05	No. 5. Play – Kitty, Kitty: Allegretto	01:04
06	No. 6. Study for the Left Hand – Hey, tulip, tulip: Allegro	00:41
07	No. 7. Play Song – Look for the needle: Andante grazioso	00:37
08	No. 8. Children's Game – Hey görbénye, görbénye: Allegretto	01:21
09	No. 9. Song – White lily: Adagio	01:02
10	No. 10. Children's Dance – The Walachians: Allegro molto	00:36
11	No. 11. I lost my companion: Lento	01:05
12	No. 12. Chain, chain, evening, chain: Allegro	01:16
13	No. 13. Ballad – A lad was killed: Andante	01:00
14	No. 14. Lads from Csanád: Allegretto	00:31
15	No. 15. Teeny-weeny is the street of István: Allegro moderato	00:32
16	No. 16. Old Hungarian Tune – All I ever stole in my life: Andante rubato	00:44
17	No. 17. Round Dance – My little graceful girl: Lento	01:15
18	No. 18. Soldier's Song – A warship lies in the harbor of Nagyvár: Andante non troppo	00:56
19	No. 19. When I go into the inn at Doboz: Allegretto	00:34
20	No. 20. Drinking Song: Allegro	00:27

21	No. 21. Allegro robusto	00:46
22	No. 22. One ought to go to Debrecen: Allegretto	00:46
23	No. 23. Dance Song – You must dance this way: Allegro grazioso	00:44
24	No. 24. Water, water, water: Andante sostenuto	01:04
25	No. 25. László Fehér stole a horse: Parlando	00:43
26	No. 26. Go round, sweetheart: Moderato	00:45
27	No. 27. Jest: Allegramente	00:50
28	No. 28. Choral – They brought up the rooster: Andante	01:36
29	No. 29. Pentatonic Tune – Mother, dear mother: Allegro scherzando	00:44
30	No. 30. Jeering Song – The sun shines into the curch: Allegro ironico	00:34
31	No. 31. Stars, stars, shine brightly: Andante tranquillo	01:32
32	No. 32. White beanflower: Andante	01:23
33	No. 33. I picked flowers in the garden: Allegro non troppo	01:03
34	No. 34. Not far away is the village of Margitta: Allegretto	00:38
35	No. 35. If I walk up the high hill of Buda: Con moto	00:29
36	No. 36. Drunkard's Song – Ten liters are inside me: Vivace	00:39
37	No. 37. Swine-Herd's Song – The cricket wants to marry: Allegro	00:32
38	No. 38. Winter Solstice Song – May the Lord God grant: Molto Vivace	01:02
39	No. 39. Do you go, sweetheart?: Allegro moderato	02:13
40	No. 40. Swine-Herd's Dance – The cricket wants to marry: Allegro vivace	01:50

Total time:	36:28
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Recording at **ProVibe Studio, Hungary, 04 June, 2024**

Score: **Editio Musica Budapest Zeneműkiadó / G. Henle Verlag**

Piano technician: **Balázs Tóth**

Recording and balancing engineer: **Sándor Árok**

Mastering engineer: **Tom Caulfield**

Recorded audio format: **Pure DSD256**

Cover Picture: **Eliza Báll**

Booklet Picture: **Izabell Báll**

Photo: **Marouan Benabdallah**

Producer: **Róbert Zoltán Hunka**

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