

Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen*, considered to be the composer's masterpiece, was first performed in Paris in 1875. Though Bizet was paid well for the opera, it was a relative failure, and was not received well by either the public or by critics. Even though attendance was low, the company performed it 37 times. Some say that the failure of the opera helped speed Bizet's death; he died on the night of the 31st performance. "Gypsy Dance" is from this famous opera.

Gypsy Dance

from *Carmen*

Georges Bizet (1838–1875)

Arr. Allan Small

Vivace (lively)

The musical score for "Gypsy Dance" is presented in five systems. Each system consists of a treble clef staff (right hand) and a bass clef staff (left hand). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked "Vivace (lively)". The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The melody in the right hand is characterized by eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. Fingerings (1-5) and accents (>) are indicated throughout the score to guide the performer.

1 2 3 4 1 4 2 *a tempo*

molto ritardando *f*

1 5 1

Detailed description: This system contains the first five measures of the piece. The right-hand staff (treble clef) features a melodic line with fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 2. The left-hand staff (bass clef) has a bass line with fingerings 1, 5, 1. The tempo marking *a tempo* is placed above the right staff. The dynamic marking *molto ritardando* is placed above the left staff, and *f* (forte) is placed above the right staff. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

5 2 1 4 5 2 1 4 1 3 1

Detailed description: This system contains the next five measures. The right-hand staff continues the melodic line with fingerings 5, 2, 1, 4, 5, 2, 1, 4, 1, 3, 1. The left-hand staff continues the bass line. The dynamic markings *molto ritardando* and *f* are maintained across the system. The music continues in the same key.