

The title means “A Little Night Music.” Mozart was at the height of his powers in 1787, and busy working on his operatic masterpiece *Don Giovanni* when he wrote this charming work. Each of the four movements is a little gem, and the piece remains one of the great composer’s most popular works.

EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK

(Opening Theme)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756–1791)

Allegro
N.C.

f

2 3 5

4

3 2 3 5 3 2

mf

G D7/G

7

4 3 2

9

G D7/A G/B D7/A G D7/A G/B

3 3

In 1924, bandleader Paul Whiteman asked George Gershwin—already the darling of Broadway for his jazzy show tunes—to compose a piece for an upcoming New York City concert. The result was the world-famous *Rhapsody in Blue*, which has probably been performed more times than any other piece of American concert music.

RHAPSODY IN BLUE™

(Main Theme)

Moderately

By George Gershwin
(1898–1937)

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). Measure numbers 1, 5, 9, and 13 are indicated in boxes at the start of their respective systems. Chord symbols are placed above the staff lines: F (3 1) and G7 (5 3) in the first system; C+7 (5 2) and F (5 1) in the second; Gm/D (5 3) in the third; and F#°/C (5 2), Gm7 (3 1), and Bbm in the fourth. The first system includes the dynamic marking *p-f* (on repeat). The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs. The bass line features several octaves marked with '8'.

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In Bizet's opera *Carmen*, a gypsy temptress entices the soldier Don José into abandoning the army and his sweetheart, Michaela. He runs away with Carmen to a gypsy encampment, but she soon tires of the soldier and instead takes up with the glamorous bullfighter, Escamillo. In this song, the macho torero brags about his bravery and the glamour of his profession. It was only after Bizet's death that *Carmen* became an incredibly popular opera.

TORADOR SONG

(from *Carmen*)

Georges Bizet
(1838–1875)

Allegro moderato

The musical score for the Toreador Song is presented in four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The tempo is marked 'Allegro moderato'. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major). The score includes various chords and fingerings:

- System 1:** Starts with a **Gm** chord and a **ff** dynamic. The melody features a triplet of eighth notes. The bass line has a 1/2 fingering.
- System 2:** Continues the melody with a 1 fingering. The bass line has a 3 fingering. Chords include **Cm**, **F7**, **Bb**, **D7**, and **Gm**.
- System 3:** Features a 2 fingering in the melody. The bass line has a 3 fingering. Chords include **Bb**, **F7**, **Bb**, **D7/A**, and **Gm**. The dynamic changes to **p**.
- System 4:** Starts with a 10 measure mark. The melody has a 2 fingering. The bass line has a 3 fingering. Chords include **G7**, **C7**, and **Gm**.

It's been said that the definition of an intellectual is somebody who can listen to the *William Tell Overture* without thinking of the Lone Ranger. Rossini's opera is about a legendary Swiss hero, William Tell, who is forced by a tyrannical governor to shoot an apple off his son's head with a bow and arrow. The opera was Rossini's last major work, coming after no less than 39 other operas, most of which were highly successful and are still played today.

WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE

Gioacchino Rossini
(1792–1868)

With spirit

N.C.

ff

2

1 LH 3

2

C

3 2

pp

13

F

C

F

18

C7

F

f