

Alfred's Basic Piano Library

Piano

Classic Themes

Level 4

Allan Small

This book contains new arrangements of great *Classic Themes*. Many of these beautiful melodies were not originally written for the keyboard. Composers write music in many instrumental forms—symphonies, concertos, ballets, etc. Allan Small has taken some of the most popular and arranged them in graded order for the piano student. Also included are arrangements of vocal music. There is music from popular operas as well as folk music, music that was passed down from one generation to another and whose composers are frequently unknown.

The purpose of this series of *Classic Themes* is to allow the piano student to become familiar with these beautiful melodies by performing them. Though not in any way a substitute for the original composition, *Classic Themes*, through its arrangements and

write-ups for each selection, will give the student a heightened awareness of many composers and their works. By performing these arrangements and by listening to the recordings of the compositions in their original form, the student will gain an expanded understanding of and appreciation for the truly great music of the past.

The four books of *Classic Themes*, Levels 2–5, are designed to supplement ALFRED'S BASIC PIANO LIBRARY and are coordinated page-by-page with the LESSON BOOKS. The instructions in the upper right corner of the first page of each piece clearly indicate when the student is ready to learn the piece. The pieces may be played at any time after the designated pages are covered, but it is best not to attempt them sooner than these references indicate.

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Second Edition

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This plaintive romance by Tchaikovsky has the mood of forlorn love. Tchaikovsky uses the harmonic minor scale, with touches of the Eastern modes, as heard with the unusual A-sharp in the first measure.

Romance

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Lento e espressivo

The first system of the musical score for the Romance by Tchaikovsky. It consists of a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo and mood are indicated as *Lento e espressivo*. The first measure of the treble staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and contains a half note A4 with a sharp sign above it, followed by a half note B4, and then a half note A4 with a sharp sign above it. The bass staff begins with a half note chord of F#4 and C4, followed by a half note chord of D4 and F#4, and then a half note chord of E4 and G#4. The first system ends with a half note A4 with a sharp sign above it.

The second system of the musical score. The treble staff continues with a half note B4, a half note A4 with a sharp sign above it, and a half note G#4. The bass staff continues with a half note chord of F#4 and C4, a half note chord of D4 and F#4, and a half note chord of E4 and G#4. The second system ends with a half note A4 with a sharp sign above it.

The third system of the musical score. The treble staff continues with a half note G#4, a half note F#4, and a half note E4. The bass staff continues with a half note chord of F#4 and C4, a half note chord of D4 and F#4, and a half note chord of E4 and G#4. The third system ends with a half note A4 with a sharp sign above it.

The fourth system of the musical score. The treble staff continues with a half note D4, a half note C4, and a half note B3. The bass staff continues with a half note chord of F#4 and C4, a half note chord of D4 and F#4, and a half note chord of E4 and G#4. The fourth system ends with a half note A4 with a sharp sign above it.

Tchaikovsky shows his brilliance for transforming Russian-style folk tunes into orchestral showpieces with *March Slav*. The piece is basically in G minor, but the addition of C-sharp gives it a distinctive Slavic sound.

March Slav

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Moderato

The musical score for 'March Slav' is presented in four systems. Each system consists of a piano (p) part on the upper staff and a bass part on the lower staff. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The key signature is G minor (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and fingerings. The piano part features a melodic line with a prominent C-sharp, while the bass part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The first system includes a fingering '5' above the first note and a dynamic 'p'. The second system includes fingerings '2', '1', and '2' above the first three notes of the piano part. The third and fourth systems continue the melodic and harmonic development of the piece.