

Alfred's Basic Piano Library

Piano

Classic Themes

Level 5

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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Georges Bizet (1838–1875) was a distinguished French composer whose opera *Carmen* shocked the audiences of Europe when it premiered. The main character is Carmen, a Gypsy woman of strong character. Bizet is said to have used many original Gypsy tunes and popular Spanish songs for sources in the opera.

Gypsy Dance from “Carmen”

Georges Bizet

Vivace (lively)

p

3 1

1 2 4 1 5 2 3

4 1 4 3 4 3 1

4 1 4 3 5

4 4 3 1

This theme from the slow movement of Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 21* was used as background music for a popular film several years ago entitled *Elvira Madigan*.

Theme from Piano Concerto No. 21

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Lento e cantabile

mp

mf

mp

*Start the trill on E.

Thomas Moore (1779–1852) was both poet and musician. During his lifetime his many songs were very popular. *The Last Rose of Summer* is still sung by many vocalists.

The Last Rose of Summer

Thomas Moore

Lento e espressivo

mp

ritardando

a tempo

ritard.

p a tempo