

The Cambridge Companion to Bartók

Béla Bartók (1881–1945) is now regarded as a key innovator of twentieth-century music. He is widely known for compositions strongly influenced by his folk music studies, and for his activities as a concert pianist, music editor and teacher.

This Companion comprises three sections: the first explores Bartók's general philosophy on life, as it evolved within the turbulent political and cultural environment in Hungary in which he grew up. Focusing on his major works the second section identifies the innovative characteristics of his musical style within the context of the diverse genres in which he composed. The third section examines the wide variety of critical and analytical responses to his compositions and his performances both during his life and after.

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BARTÓK

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Contributors

Amanda Bayley is Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Wolverhampton and has published on Bartók's Fourth String Quartet. Following research undertaken at the Budapest Bartók Archive she is currently preparing a book on Bartók performance studies.

Rachel Beckles Willson is Lecturer in Music at Bristol University. She has published articles on György Kurtág and is currently preparing a book on this composer.

Susan Bradshaw is a pianist and writer on music, mainly that of the twentieth century, who studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Harold Craxton and Howard Ferguson and afterwards in Paris with Pierre Boulez.

David Cooper is Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of Leeds. His publications include the Cambridge Music Handbook on Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra and a number of other essays about the composer.

Stephen Erdely is Professor Emeritus of Music at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His field research in ethnomusicology includes the oral traditional music of central European nationality groups in the midwest and east of the United States, and more recently as an appointed 'research associate' to the Milman Parry Collection at Harvard University; his studies also include his book on the *Music of Southslavic Epics from the Bihac Region of Bosnia*.

Victoria Fischer, professional pianist, is Associate Professor of Music at Elon College, North Carolina. She is author and editor of a number of publications on Bartók's music.

Danielle Fosler-Lussier completed her doctoral dissertation entitled 'The Transition to Communism and the Legacy of Béla Bartók in Hungary, 1945–1956', at the University of California, Berkeley in 1999. She now holds a postdoctoral research and teaching fellowship at Princeton University's Society of Fellows in the Humanities.

Malcolm Gillies is Executive Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Adelaide, and President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. His extensive publications on Bartók include *The Bartók Companion* (1993). With Adrienne Gombocz he has edited a volume of Bartók's letters, and is the author of a forthcoming Master Musicians volume on the composer.

Lynn Hooker is completing her doctoral dissertation, entitled 'Modernism Meets Nationalism: Béla Bartók and the Musical Life of Pre-World War I Budapest', at the University of Chicago.

Peter Laki is Programme Annotator for the Cleveland Orchestra. He has lectured on Bartók at conferences in Hungary, France and the United States.

Vera Lampert holds a degree in musicology from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of

Music in Budapest. From 1969 to 1978 she was a researcher at the Budapest Bartók Archive and has published several articles on Bartók including a catalogue of all the folk melodies used in his compositions. Since 1983 she has been a music librarian at Brandeis University, Massachusetts, while continuing with her Bartók studies.

Carl Leafstedt is Assistant Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His writings on Bartók have appeared in *College Music Symposium*, *NOTES*, and *Studia musicologica* and he is author of *Inside Bluebeard's Castle: Music and Drama in Béla Bartók's Opera* (1998).

Nicky Losseff is Lecturer in Music at the University of York. She has written on subjects ranging from medieval polyphony through nineteenth-century literature to Kate Bush. She is also a pianist, specializing in contemporary music.

David E. Schneider is Valentine Professor of Music at Amherst College. His work has received support from the American Musicological Society (AMS 50) and the American Council of Learned Societies; he has published articles in *Bartók and His World* (1995), *Muzsika*, *Studia musicologica* and *repercussions*.

Ivan F. Waldbauer, musicologist and pianist, was research director of the New York Bartók Archive (1957–66) and taught music history at Brown University, Providence (1960–90). His interests, besides Bartók, are popular music of the sixteenth century and German music theory from Koch to Riemann and Schenker.

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Hungarian Peasant Songs Sz71, *The Miraculous Mandarin* Op. 19 Sz73, *Village Scenes* Sz78, Piano Sonata Sz80, *Out of Doors* Sz81, String Quartet No. 3 Sz85, String Quartet No. 4 Sz91, Piano Concerto No. 2 Sz95, 44 Duos Sz98, String Quartet No. 5 Sz102, *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta* Sz106, and the Sonata for Solo Cello by Zoltán Kodály.

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Chronology

DATE	FOLKSONG COLLECTING AND TRANSCRIPTIONS	COMPOSITIONS AND PERFORMING EDITIONS
1903		<i>Kossuth</i> symphonic poem. Four Piano Pieces. Sonata for violin and piano.
1903–04		Piano Quintet.
1904	First experience of folk music from Transylvania.	Rhapsody Op. 1, for piano; for piano and orchestra (1904–5); for two pianos (1905). Scherzo Op. 2, for orchestra and piano.
1904–05		Hungarian Folksongs (First Series), for voice and piano.
1905	Starts collaboration with Zoltán Kodály (–1940).	Suite No. 1 Op. 3, for orchestra. <i>For the little 'tót'</i> , for voice and piano.
1905–07		Suite No. 2 Op. 4, for orchestra (transcribed as Suite for two pianos, 1941).
1906	Annual folksong collecting expeditions using Edison phonograph. Collects Slovak songs.	Hungarian Folksongs (with Zoltán Kodály), for voice and piano. Two Hungarian folksongs, for voice and piano.
1906–07		Hungarian Folksongs (Second Series), for voice and piano.
1907	Collecting trip to Transylvania. First folksong publication, <i>Székely balladák</i> [Székely ballads].	Three Hungarian Folksongs from the Csík District (No. 3 rearranged for voice and piano as No. 3 of Eight Hungarian Folksongs, 1907/17). Two Hungarian Folksongs (unpublished). Four Slovak Folksongs, for voice and piano (No. 4, 1916).
1907–08		Violin Concerto No. 1 [op. posth.] (first movement orchestrated as the first of <i>Two Portraits</i> Op. 5, 1911).
1908	Collecting trip to Romanian villages and ethnically mixed villages, including Slovak, Ruthenian, Serbian and Croatian communities, each year (–1917). First article in the Hungarian journal, <i>Ethnographia</i> .	Performing edition of J.S. Bach's <i>The Well-Tempered Clavier</i> . Fourteen Bagatelles Op. 6, for piano (No. 14 orchestrated as the second of <i>Two Portraits</i>). Ten Easy Pieces, for piano (Nos. 5 and 10 orchestrated as Nos. 1 and 2 of <i>Hungarian Sketches</i> , 1931).
1908–09		String Quartet No. 1 Op. 7. <i>For Children</i> for piano (Vol. I, No. 40 orchestrated as No. 5 of <i>Hungarian Sketches</i>). Two Elegies Op. 8b, for piano.

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DATE	FOLKSONG COLLECTING AND TRANSCRIPTIONS	COMPOSITIONS AND PERFORMING EDITIONS
1909	Collects Hungarian, Slovak and Romanian songs.	Works on an instructive edition of Beethoven Piano Sonatas (–1912).
1908–10		Seven Sketches Op. 9b, for piano.
1909–10		Two Romanian Dances Op. 8a, for piano (No. 1 orchestrated, 1911). Four Dirges Op. 9a, for piano (No. 2 orchestrated as No. 3 of <i>Hungarian Sketches</i>).
1910	The Romanian <i>Bihor</i> songs are offered to the Bucharest Academy for publication.	<i>Two Pictures</i> Op. 10, for orchestra (also transcribed for piano). Commences work on an instructive edition of twenty Mozart Piano Sonatas (–1912).
1908–11		Three Burlesques Op. 8c, for piano (No. 2 orchestrated as No. 4 of <i>Hungarian Sketches</i>).
1911		<i>Two Portraits</i> , Op. 5, for orchestra. Commences work on an instructive edition of seventeen Haydn Piano Sonatas (–1913) as well as editions of Schubert and Schumann piano pieces and the Liszt critical edition (–1917). <i>Duke Bluebeard's Castle</i> Op. 11. <i>Allegro barbaro</i> , for piano.
1910–12	Works on Slovak manuscript collection and offers it for publication.	Four Old Hungarian folksongs, for male choir.
1912	Collecting trips in Hungary.	Four Orchestral Pieces Op. 12 (originally for two pianos, orchestrated 1921). Nine Romanian Folksongs for voice and piano (unpublished).
1913	Collecting trips in north Africa. First book on folk music, <i>Cântece populare românești din comitatul Bihor (Ungaria)</i> , appears in Romanian and French in Bucharest.	The First Term at the Piano – eighteen pieces for Sándor Reschofsky's <i>Piano Method</i> .
1913–14	Collecting trips in Romanian villages.	
1915	Collecting trips to ethnically mixed villages.	Sonatina, for piano (orchestrated as Dances from Transylvania, 1931). Romanian Folk Dances, for piano (transcribed for orchestra, 1922). Romanian Christmas Carols (<i>colinde</i>), for piano. Two Romanian Folksongs, for female choir.
1916	Collecting trips to ethnically mixed villages.	Slovak Folksong, for voice and piano. Completes instructive edition of Bach's 'Notebook for Anna

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DATE	FOLKSONG COLLECTING AND TRANSCRIPTIONS	COMPOSITIONS AND PERFORMING EDITIONS
1916		Magdalena Bach'. Suite Op. 14 for piano. Five Songs Op. 15 for voice and piano. Five 'Ady' Songs Op. 16 for voice and piano.
1914–17		<i>The Wooden Prince</i> Op. 13.
1915–17		String Quartet No. 2.
1917	Collecting trip in Hungary. Article on north African folk music published in Budapest.	Four Slovak Folksongs, for mixed choir and piano. Slovak Folksongs, for male choir. Eight Hungarian Folksongs, for voice and piano (Nos. 1–5, 1907).
1918	Collecting trip in Hungary.	Three Hungarian Folksongs, for piano (No. 1, 1914). Fifteen Hungarian Peasant Songs, for piano (Nos. 7–15, 1914). (Nos. 6–12, 14, 15 transcribed for orchestra as Hungarian Peasant Songs, 1933.) Three Studies Op. 18, for piano.
1918–19		<i>The Miraculous Mandarin</i> Op. 19 (orchestrated 1923–24).
1919	Collects folksongs from Romanian soldiers.	
1920		Improvisations on Hungarian Peasant Songs Op. 20, for piano. Completes instructive edition of Chopin Waltzes. Works on editions of Couperin and Scarlatti keyboard works (–1926).
1921	Completes classification of Hungarian folk music. Completes a joint study with Kodály of 150 Transylvanian folksongs.	Sonata No. 1, for violin and piano.
1922		Sonata No. 2, for violin and piano.
1923	<i>Erdélyi Magyarság. Népdalok</i> [Transylvanian Hungarians. Folksongs] (with Kodály). Volume <i>Volkmusik der</i> <i>Rumänen von Maramureş</i> is published in Munich.	Dance Suite, for orchestra (transcribed for piano solo, 1925).
1924	<i>A magyar népdal</i> [The Hungarian Folk Song] published in Budapest (also Berlin, 1925; London, 1931).	<i>Village Scenes</i> , for voice and piano (Nos. 3–5 for eight female voices and chamber orchestra).
1925	Preparation of study of Romanian Christmas carols (<i>colinde</i>).	

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DATE	FOLKSONG COLLECTING AND TRANSCRIPTIONS	COMPOSITIONS AND PERFORMING EDITIONS
1926	Completes study of Romanian Christmas carols.	Sonata for piano. <i>Out of Doors</i> , for piano. Nine Little Piano Pieces. Piano Concerto No. 1.
1927		Three Rondos on Folk Tunes, for piano (No.1, 1916). String Quartet No. 3.
1928		Rhapsody No. 1, for violin and piano (transcribed for violin and orchestra, and for cello and piano, 1929). Rhapsody No. 2, for violin and piano (transcribed for violin and orchestra, 1929). String Quartet No. 4.
1929		Twenty Hungarian Folksongs, for voice and piano (Nos. 1, 2, 11, 14, 12 for voice and orchestra, as Five Hungarian Folksongs, 1933).
1930		Four Hungarian Folksongs, for mixed choir. <i>Cantata profana</i> .
1931		Piano Concerto No. 2. 44 Duos for two violins (Nos. 28, 38, 43, 16, 36, transcribed for piano solo as <i>Petite Suite</i> , 1936). Dances from Transylvania, for orchestra. <i>Hungarian Sketches</i> , for orchestra.
1932	Revision of Romanian collection published in 1913.	Székely Folk Songs, for male choir.
1934	Publication of comparative study, 'Hungarian Folk Music and the Folk Music of Neighboring Peoples' (in <i>Béla Bartók: Studies in Ethnomusicology</i> ed. Benjamin Suchoff (Lincoln, Nebr., and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1997)).	String Quartet No. 5.
1935	Publishes <i>Die Melodien der rumänischen Colinde (Weihnachtslieder)</i> at own expense.	<i>From Olden Times</i> , for male choir.
1935–36		Twenty-seven two- and three-part choruses, for children's or women's voices. (Seven of these appear as Seven Choruses with orchestra 1937–41).
1936	Collecting trip in Turkey.	<i>Petite Suite</i> for piano (transcription of six of 44 Duos above). <i>Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta</i> .
1937		Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion (transcribed as Concerto for Two Pianos, Percussion and Orchestra, 1940).

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DATE	FOLKSONG COLLECTING AND TRANSCRIPTIONS	COMPOSITIONS AND PERFORMING EDITIONS
1937–38		Violin Concerto No. 2.
1938		<i>Contrasts</i> for violin, clarinet and piano.
1939		Divertimento for string orchestra. <i>Mikrokosmos</i> (1926–39). String Quartet No. 6.
1940	Completes the manuscript of <i>Hungarian Folk Songs: Universal Collection</i> , 9 vols. (vol. 1 published 1991).	Concerto for Two Pianos, Percussion and Orchestra (transcription of Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion).
1943	Completes the manuscript of his study of Turkish folk music (published in 1976).	Concerto for Orchestra.
1944	Completes the manuscript of his study of Serbo-Croatian folksongs (published in 1951).	Sonata for Solo Violin.
1945	Completes final revisions of his study of Romanian folk music (published in 1967–75).	Three Ukrainian Folksongs for voice and piano. Piano Concerto No. 3, Viola Concerto (incomplete).

