HUNGARIAN Gypsy Music

Vol. 1

PLAYED BY

MAGYARI IMRE

and his HUNGARIAN GYPSY ORCHESTRA
THE ONE LITTLE GIRL IN THE WORLD
From "The Tarnished Lady"
("Csak Egy Kislány Van A Világon")
(Szentirmay)

MAGYARI IMRE
And His
Hungarian Gypsy Orchestra

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TITANIA WALTZ
("Titania Keringö")
(Radics Béla)

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THE BROKEN FIDDLE
(Danko Pista)

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THE LAST DROPS
(Kratzl)

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MISKA BOROZO’S CSÁRDÁS

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(Fly My Little Swallow)

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I'D BE A TREE,
IF YOU'D BE MY BLOSSOM
(Fa Leszek, Ha Fának, Vagy Virága)
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Hungarian Gypsy Music

with vivid tales of his playing. The instrumentation of his orchestra was similar to that of the typical gypsy band, which except for a clarinet, consists entirely of strings supported by the Cymbalbom. an instrument played with small hammers, somewhat like the modern Xylophone. In the Cymbalbom, however, the tones are produced from strings instead of from wooden bars. It is really a highly developed form of the ancient Dulcimer, which in turn was a member of the Zither family. In playing Zithers the strings are plucked, while in the Cymbalbom they are struck with small hammers.

The other instruments of the gypsy band are bowed instruments: a first violin played by the leader, who performs the principal melodies and improvisations with three or more syncopated variations; a second violin, which plays counter melodies; a viola sometimes a third violin which plays contrary with limits to chords and emphasizing the rhythm; and a double bass. Recently voices have been added to many gypsy orchestras.

While Hungarian Gypsy music is not quite identical to the music of Hungary which the ancient Hungarian nation brought from the Caucasus continent to Europe, it is nevertheless an authentic reflection of the ancient phase of Hungarian life and presents a type of music which has interested composers from the days of Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms and which influenced almost all of the works of the great Franz Liszt.

Most authorities believe that the gypsies came originally from India, not from Egypt, as was once claimed. They migrated to various European countries, principally Hungary, Romania, Spain and Russia. In Hungary they wandered through the villages, became acquainted with the peasants, and then taught them their own interpretations of the peasant songs to the tunes. Composers in the cities were interested in the gypsy versions of the peasant songs and themselves tried to perpetuate the music that was so sensationally performed by the gypsy bands with their violin and cymbalbom.

The peculiarities of Hungarian music and the sound of the Hungarian gypsy have undoubtedly been determined by the subtleties of the Hungarian language, which with its various slurred sounds and quaint accents and intonations is not the more commonplace but rather another language in existence. The gypsies have lived in Hungary for centuries and they know the language and with their own interpretation of Hungarian music. They have assimilated the delicate art of ornamentation and decoration, the word music is not possible without it.

Consequently the gypsies are the gypsy's messengers, with their dances, singing, playing, and humor. They perform the songs and dances,Hungarian Gypsy Music—Vol. 1

and their own. But even the gay songs are tinged with melancholy, for the Magyars, like other people the world over, loves to be affected by music, even in the highest degree. Some of the songs will make you weep even in the most joyous delirious revels.

The gypsy as a rule is a simple sort of fellow; when a crowd is gathered about him, he plays his music with joy and glee. The village girls in the neighborhood gather around him, and they form little groups and sing along with the gypsy. In this way he can find a large audience.

The most popular of all Hungarian songs is the Csoori, or the Czongar, and it is extremely difficult to sing. The Csoori is usually sung by a single voice, and it is usually accompanied by the Lizza, which is a Hungarian zither. The Csoori is a very sad song, and it is usually sung in a minor key. It is sung in a very high key, and it is often referred to as the Hungarian opera song.

The Hungarian gypsy is not only a musician, but he is also a poet. He writes his own songs and sings them with great passion. The gypsy is a very important part of Hungarian life, and he is a very important part of Hungarian music.
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