

# "SPOON RIVER"

## American Folk-dance

The fiddle tune below was sent me by Capt. Charles H. Robinson in the summer of 1915, at my request, after he had written me in regard to *Spoon River Anthology* that he had heard the old fiddlers play this tune when he lived in Stark County, Illinois, in 1857.

*Edgar Lee Masters*

February 11th. 1922.

# "Spoon River"

## Fiddle-tune

as heard in 1857 at a dance at Bradford, Illinois, U. S. A.,  
by Capt. Charles H. Robinson

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first three staves form the main melody, ending with a double bar line and the word "End". The fourth staff is a variation of the first two staves, marked "2nd time octave higher". The fifth staff is a variation of the first two staves, marked "1st time" and "2nd time" with repeat signs. Below the fifth staff is the instruction "Back to start".

AMERICAN FOLK-MUSIC SETTINGS

# № 1. "SPOON RIVER"

(For Edgar Lee Masters, poet of pioneers)

American folk-dance, heard played by a fiddler at a country dance at Bradford, Illinois, in 1857, by Capt. Charles H. Robinson

and set for piano by

PERCY ALDRIDGE GRAINGER

Set, March 10, 1919,  
New York City, and  
Jan. 29-30, 1922,  
White Plains, N.Y.

Sturdily, not too fast; with "pioneer"  
persistency. ♩ = about 168

*p detached*

*pp*  
(no pedal except where marked)

small hands *pp*

*Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

Detailed description: This system of music is written for piano. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The top line contains a melody of eighth notes, starting with a quarter rest followed by a dotted quarter note. The bottom line contains a bass line of eighth notes, starting with a quarter rest followed by a dotted quarter note. The music is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a detached articulation. A *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic is indicated for the bass line. A note about pedal use states "(no pedal except where marked)". There are two *Ped. \** markings: one in the middle of the system and one at the end of the system. The label "small hands" is placed to the left of the bottom line, with a *pp* dynamic below it.

small hands *Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

*Ped. \**

Detailed description: This system continues the musical score. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The top line contains a melody of eighth notes, starting with a quarter rest followed by a dotted quarter note. The bottom line contains a bass line of eighth notes, starting with a quarter rest followed by a dotted quarter note. There are five *Ped. \** markings: one in the middle of the system and one at the end of the system. The label "small hands" is placed to the left of the bottom line.

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

detached, top voice to the fore  
mp  
p  
p  
(small hands may break  
Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

small hands  
p  
mp  
these chords)  
L. H. to the fore  
Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

small hands

*p* *mp*

7 7 7 7

Red. \*

*mp* *sf*

1 2 1 2 1 2

2

Red. \*

*sf* *sf*

1 2 1 2 3 2

Red. \*

small hands

*etc.* *Top voice much to the fore detached*

*mf* *ff* *f* *short and sharp*

*f*

Red. \*

8  
*f*  
*fff*  
*Red.* \* *Red.* \*  
*Bass hugely to the fore*

*ff* *fff* *ff*  
*Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \*  
*Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \*  
 small hands  
*fff*  
*Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \*

*The accents very heavy*  
 \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \*

*louden* *pp*  
 \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \*  
 small hands  
*pp*  
*Red.* \* *Red.* \* *Red.* \*

8

*smoothly*

*pp*

1

*Red.* .....

8

(keep it *pp*)

5

1

*Red.* .....

8

5

*Red.* .....

8

*Fingers,*

(don't louden)

*Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* \*

*ff* *suddenly*

*Red.* \*

*suddenly ff*

*Red.* \*

*small hands*

5

7

1

*Red.* .....

wrist and arm as stiff as possible

Musical score for the first system. It consists of two systems of piano and small hands parts. The piano part is written in treble and bass clefs. The small hands part is written in treble and bass clefs. The piano part includes markings for 'Ped.' (pedal) and 'V' (accents). The small hands part includes markings for 'Ped.' and 'V'. The tempo is marked '8'.

stiff, as before

Musical score for the second system. It consists of two systems of piano and small hands parts. The piano part is written in treble and bass clefs. The small hands part is written in treble and bass clefs. The piano part includes markings for 'Ped.' and 'V'. The small hands part includes markings for 'Ped.' and 'V'. The tempo is marked '8'. The label 'small hands' is placed to the left of the second system.

Musical score for the third system. It consists of two systems of piano and small hands parts. The piano part is written in treble and bass clefs. The small hands part is written in treble and bass clefs. The piano part includes markings for 'Ped.', 'V', and 'fff'. The small hands part includes markings for 'Ped.', 'V', and 'etc.'. The tempo is marked '8'.

*The accents as rough and heavy as possible*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

*accents as before*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

*p*

*(no pedal)*  
*(small hands may break these)*

*chords)*

*detached*

*louden hugely*

*Much slower*  
*(♩ = about 100)*

*fist*

*Top voice fff*

*slacken*

*in time*  
*(1st speed)*

Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \* Ped. \*

Written out in train, Canadian Rockies, March 24, 1929