

OLD PETER'S RUSSIAN FOLK SONGS

Intermediate Piano & Voices

**Used in Stage Adaptations Based On The Novel
'Old Peter's Russian Tales'**

Adapted by John Mills

**Presented by special arrangement with the
Arthur Ransome Literacy Society**

LYRICS/PIANO/VOCAL SCORE

Musical Arrangement and Lyrics by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER

JOHN MILLS
Stoneleigh Down
Upper Tockington Road
Tockington
Bristol
BS32 4LQ
UK

++44 (0)7538902364
Email: earwormmusicals@gmail.com
Website: earwormmusicals.com
Version: 01.11.2024

CONTENTS:

<u>Song Title</u>	<u>Folk Song Title as Collected by Kurt Schindler</u>
01: A Russian Story-Time	(The Conscripts Return)
02: One Little Act Of Kindness	(The Bridegroom's Plea)
03: Twitchy-Witchy Baba Yaga	(Advice To Lovers)
04: My Flying Ship	(Little Yaska)
05: Oh, Such Treachery!	(A Maiden's Revenge)
06: That's Me!	(In The Kitchen Garden)
07: I Sing My Song	(Riddle Song)
08: The Lonely Prince Of Sadness	(The Birch In The Meadows)
09: Little River Volkov	(Vanja)
10: I Love To Dance*	(Kalinka)
11: Guess Who Stole The Turnips?	(The Angry Father-In-Law)
12: That Igor Will Not Gain!	(The Girl Who Wouldn't Dance)
13: Always Something More For Me To Do	(The Joyous Meeting)
14: Mister Frost	(The Slain Cossack)
15: Love Of My Life**	
16: May Your Heart Feel Our Love	(Round Dance)
17: A Mountain Of Salt	(Jealousy)

* Composer unknown

** Original composition by JOHN MILLS

ARTHUR RANSOME TRUST:

These songs are taken from mini-musicals for the stage presented by special arrangement with the Arthur Ransome Literary Estate in 2024, adapted from '*Old Peter's Russian Tales*' published by the Arthur Ransome Trust <https://arthur-ransome-trust.org.uk>

These are fabulous retellings of Russian Folk Tales and we encourage further exploration into this original source material. Also, to explore Arthur Ransome's wonderful series of novels that begins with the children's classic 'Swallows And Amazons'. Samples of all these adaptations are available to download from the website <https://earwormmusicals.com>

PERFORMANCE LICENCE:

It is a requirement of all performances to include a short paragraph explaining the work of ART (Arthur Ransome Trust), Publisher of '*Old Peter's Russian Tales*' to encourage audiences to discover the original tales for themselves.

A licence for each charged performance is available from The Agency, 24 Pottery Lane, Holland Park, London, W11 4LZ

01: A RUSSIAN STORY-TIME: *JOKA'S FLYING SHIP

COMPANY

Russian stories, Russian rhymes
 To see us through the winter-time.
 A freezing winter, a never-ending, freezing winter.
 Are you ready for a Russian story-time?

Russian stories, Russian rhymes
 To see us through the winter-time.
 We've Russian stories of
 *Joka's flying ship. Joka's flying ship!
 Are you ready for a Russian story-time?

Russian stories, Russian rhymes ...
 To see us through the winter-time.
 We've Russian stories of
 *Joka's flying ship. Joka's flying ship!
 Are you ready ... for a Russian story-time? Yoi!

*alternative words

Twitchy-Witchy Baba Yaga
 Salty Treasure
 Poor Yevgeny
 Little Master, Master Misery
 Stolen Turnips
 Sparkling Silver Frosty Kingdoms
 Golden Firebird
 Sadko and Volkhov

02: ONE LITTLE ACT OF KINDNESS

ANASTASIA

So much joy in just one little act of kindness,
 Just a smile can bring a moment of relief.
 Each of us, we have the means to make things brighter,
 In us all, we have a way to make things right

ANASTASIA/BIGRAT

So much joy (so much joy) in just one little act of kindness,
 Just a smile (just a smile) can bring a moment of relief.
 Every day another chance to make a difference.
 Every day another chance to make things right!
 Just one little act of kindness.
 Just one little act of kindness.

03: TWITCHY-WITCHY BABA YAGA!**BABA YAGA/BABA YAGA'S HUT**

Hunt her down! (x4)

BABA YAGA

I am the witch I'm Baba Yaga. Twitchy-witchy witch, Baba-Yaga

ALL

Racing on broomstick brittle, chasing with evil cackle.

WILDCAT/SHAGGY WOLF/POLINA

Don't let her get close! Anastasia! Run away! Don't let her cast her spell!

ALL

Though she might seem friendly, I'll/she'll never let you leave safely!

Over mountains high I/she will chase you, through the valleys low I/she will race you.

Racing on broomstick brittle, chasing with evil cackle.

BABA YAGA/BABA YAGA'S HUT

Hunt her down! (x4)

OTHERS

Run away! (x4)

04: MY FLYING SHIP**JOKA**

I am such a simple fellow, happy chap. I'll step aboard, and journey on my flying ship!

I am sailing, sailing, step aboard, I'll journey on my flying ship.

I am sailing, sailing, on my flying, flying ship.

I am sailing, on my flying, flying ship! My flying ship! My flying ship!

05: OH, SUCH TREACHERY**JOKA**

Yoi! Yoi! Long ago my father taught me to tell the truth

Whenever I dared open up my mouth.

Long ago my Mama showed me how to keep my word

For that's what makes a fellow such as me!

ALL

Oh, treachery!

JOKA

I have fin'ly come to see that

ALL

Others may tell lies. Yoi! Yoi! Yoi! Tell lies!

JOKA

Oh! Such treachery! Oh! Such treachery! Yoi! Yoi!

JOKA/COMPANIONS

Long ago our fathers taught us to tell the truth

Whenever we dared open up our mouths.

Long ago our mamas showed us how to keep our word

For that's what makes good fellow such as we!

01 A Russian Story-Time: *Joka's Flying Ship

Words by JOHN MILLS

A Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS
COMPANY

$\text{♩} = 95$

Russ-ian sto ries_ Russ-ian rhymes to

A

7

see us through the_ Win-ter time. A freez-ing Win-ter! A nev-er - end-ing Freez-ing Win-ter!

see us through the_ Win-ter time. A freez-ing Win-ter! A nev-er - end-ing Freez-ing Win-ter!

12

Are you read-y for a Russ-ian Stor-y - time?

Russ-ian stor-ies_ Russ-ian rhymes to

B

B

02 One Little Act Of Kindness

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

Brightly $\text{♩} = 80$

A

So much joy _____ in just one
mp

Brightly $\text{♩} = 80$

A

lit - tle act of kind - ness. Just a smile _____ can bring a mo-ment of re-lief.

7
Deep with - in _____ we have the means to make things brigh - ter. Deep with-in _____ we have a

03 Twitchy-Witchy Baba Yaga

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

$\text{♩} = 85$

FRIENDS

Hunt her down! Hunt her down! Hunt her down! Hunt her down!

$\text{♩} = 85$

f pesante

3 **A**

BABA YAGA

mf

I am the witch, I'm Ba - ba Ya - ga! Twitch-y witch - y witch, Ba - ba Ya - ga!

A

mf

5

(All)Rac - ing on broom-stick brit - tle! Chas - ing with e - vil cack - le!

v.

Grandfather's Russian Songs
Piano/Vocal

04 His Flying Ship

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

♩ = 90

A I JOKA
I am such a
He is
COMPANIONS

♩ = 90

A

6 sim-ple fel-low, hap-py chap. Step a-board, come jour-ney on my fly-ing ship!

sail - ing, sail - ing on his fly - ing, fly-ing ship!

ff

11 **B** I am sail - ing, sail - ing. Step a-board, come

He is sail - ing, sail - ing, on his

B

05 Oh, Such Treachery!

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

J = 95

Yoi! Yoi! Long a - go my Fath-er

A

f ff mf

taught me to tell the truth when-ev-er I dared op - en up my mouth! Long a -

B

go my Moth-er showed me how to keep my word for that's what makes a fel-low such as

A

B

14

The musical score consists of two staves: a treble clef piano staff and a bass clef vocal staff. The vocal part includes lyrics in Russian and English. The piano part features various chords and rhythmic patterns. Section labels 'A' and 'B' are placed above specific sections of the music. Dynamic markings like 'f', 'ff', 'mf', and 'mf' are used throughout the score.

Grandfather's Russian Songs
Piano/Vocal

06 That's Me!

A Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS
SVETLANA

A I'm Svet-la-na, rich, rich, wife of

A f



MAXIM/ALL
That's me!/him! SVETLANA ALL Yo!

7 Max-im ov-er there! Scru-mmy food and warm, warm furs a life with-out a care!_____



B SVETLANA/ALL
That's me!/her!

13 MAXIM
I am Max-im, rich, rich, hus-band! Cun-nig like my wife! Al-ways on the look-out for more

B MAXIM



07 I Sing My Song

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
A Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

J = 80

IVAN

mf I sing my song of

J = 80

f *ff* *p*

A

This section starts with a piano introduction in 2/4 time, major key, with a dynamic of *mf*. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'I sing my song of' on a single note. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The dynamic changes to *ff* for the next section.

7

kind-ness to all. Of thanks for good life! No mat-ter that we're poor!

la la la etc

mp MISERY

This section continues the piano accompaniment from the previous section. The vocal line begins with 'kind-ness to all. Of thanks for good life!' followed by a vocal line 'la la la etc' on a sustained note. The dynamic is *mp* and the vocal line is labeled 'MISERY'.

13

B

Ha ha ha ha, Mis-e - ry. Ha ha ha ha, Mis-e - ry.

p MISERY

C

I shall bring you Mis-e - ry!

This section begins with a piano introduction in 2/4 time, major key, with a dynamic of *p*. The vocal line starts with 'Ha ha ha ha, Mis-e - ry.' followed by 'I shall bring you Mis-e - ry!' on a sustained note. The vocal line is labeled 'MISERY'.

B

p

This section continues the piano accompaniment from the previous section. The vocal line is labeled 'B' and 'C' respectively, indicating a repeating pattern.

08 The Lonely Prince Of Sadness

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

A *mp*

VASILLI Here, I sit a-

mf

A

mp

8

lone with my sad-ness All a-lone with noth-ing but my sad-ness See the

14

ALL

lost Prince of Sad-ness! I'm/He's the lone - ly Prince of Sad-ness. Stand-ing all a -

B

mf VASILLI

B

mf

09 Little River Volkov

Words by JOHN MILLS

Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER

A

SADKO

Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

$\text{♩} = 65$

$\text{♩} = 65$

p dolce

Lit-tle Riv-er Volk-hov I've come to
p dolce

play for you. Pret-ty Volk - hov I give my heart to you! When you're feel-ing
mf

14

lone - ly I will come and play for you. Pret-ty Volk - hov I give my heart to you.

lone - ly I will come and play for you. Pret-ty Volk - hov I give my heart to you.

20

lone - ly I will come and play for you. Pret-ty Volk - hov I give my heart to you.

lone - ly I will come and play for you. Pret-ty Volk - hov I give my heart to you.

Grandfather's Russian Songs

10 I Love To Dance

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

A CASPIAN

I
mf

A CASPIAN

I *mf*

A *mf*

accel.

B

19 **B**

deep with the cur-rents flow ing free. Dain-ty steps, pir - ou - ettes,

f

B

11 Guess Who Stole The Turnips

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

A

$\text{♩} = 85$

TURNIP THIEVES

Did we steal the tur nips?

A

$\text{♩} = 85$

mf

6 (Nodding heads) (Nodding heads)

Hm! Hm! Hm! Us who stole the tur nips? Hm! Hm! Hm! What a naughty thing to do!

Hm! Hm! Hm! Us who stole the tur nips? Hm! Hm! Hm! What a naughty thing to do!

11

Such an aw - ful thing to do! Were we ve - ry hun-ry? Yes we were!

mp *f*

Such an aw - ful thing to do! Were we ve - ry hun-ry? Yes we were!

mp *f*

Grandfather's Russian Songs
Piano/Vocal

12 That Igor Will Not Gain!

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

J = 75

TURNIP THIEVES **A**

Such a shame, you
mf

J = 75

A

f *ff* *mf*

B

9 don't know who to trust? that I-gor is to blame! Who will tell her the cause of all her
mf

B

mf

C

GALINA/ TURNIP THIEVES

16 pain? That I-gor is to blame! Such a shame, I/we
mp

f *ff* *mp*



13 Always Something More For Me To Do

Words by JOHN MILLS

Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER

Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

$\text{♩} = 75$

molto rit.

A ALL

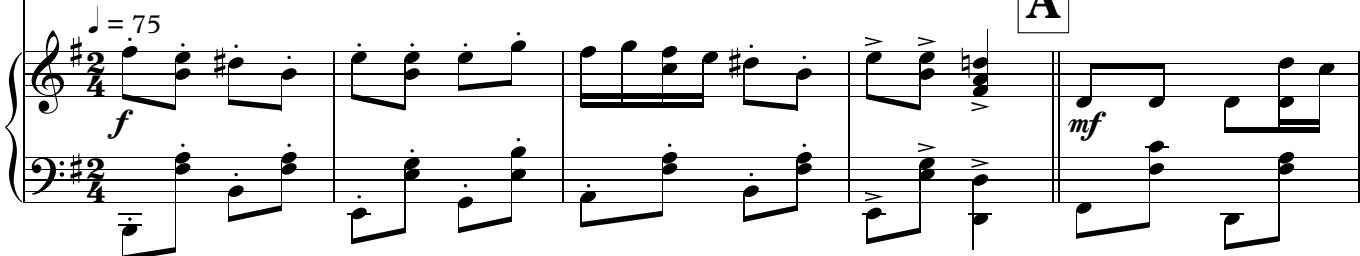
MARIA

Scrub, scrub, scrub, as I
mf

molto rit.

A

$\text{♩} = 75$

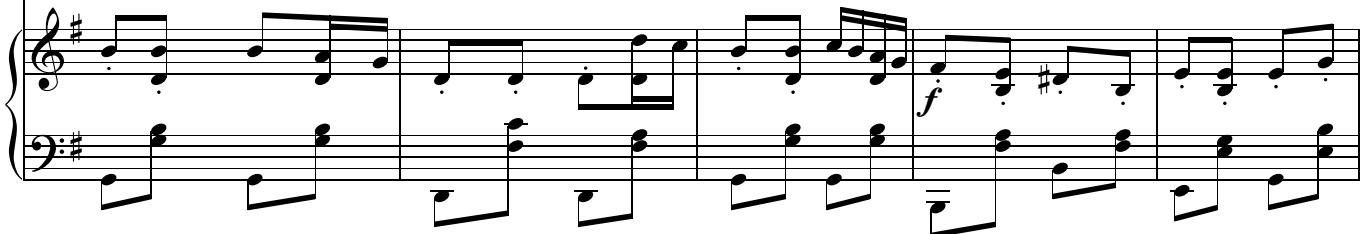


A musical score for section A. The piano part (left hand) consists of eighth-note chords in 2/4 time. The vocal part (right hand) consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal part has dynamic markings: *f* for the first measure, *mf* for the second measure, and *f* for the third measure. The vocal part also includes slurs and grace notes.



A musical score for section A, continuing from the previous page. The vocal part (right hand) consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal part has dynamic markings: *f* for the first measure, *mf* for the second measure, and *f* for the third measure. The vocal part also includes slurs and grace notes.

6 ALL MARIA ALL
kneel on the floor. I/She will scrub, scrub, scrub till my knees are raw!_ Ev' - ry morn-ing, ev'ry ev' ning

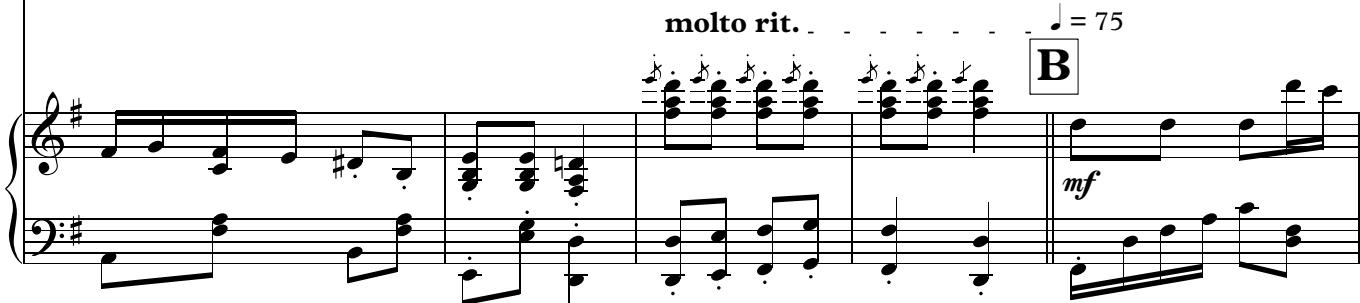


A musical score for section A, continuing from the previous page. The piano part (left hand) consists of eighth-note chords in 2/4 time. The vocal part (right hand) consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal part has dynamic markings: *f* for the first measure, *mf* for the second measure, and *f* for the third measure. The vocal part also includes slurs and grace notes.



A musical score for section B, vocal part. The vocal part (right hand) consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal part has dynamic markings: *molto rit.* for the first measure, *f* for the second measure, and *molto rit.* for the third measure. The vocal part also includes slurs and grace notes.

11 molto rit. ALL MARIA
al-ways some-thing more for me/her to do!
Wash, wash, wash at the
mf



A musical score for section B, piano and vocal parts. The piano part (left hand) consists of eighth-note chords in 2/4 time. The vocal part (right hand) consists of eighth-note chords. The vocal part has dynamic markings: *molto rit.* for the first measure, *f* for the second measure, and *molto rit.* for the third measure. The vocal part also includes slurs and grace notes.

14 Mister Frost

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

$\text{♩} = 90$

This section of the musical score begins with a blank staff. The second staff starts with a dynamic of *mf* and a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth-note patterns, with the bass line providing harmonic support. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 90$.

7 A MARIA FROST

mf Who goesthere? Is it Mis-ter Frost! Crisp-ing air, on-ly Mis-ter

At measure 7, three vocal parts are introduced: **A** (treble), **MARIA** (bass), and **FROST** (bass). The vocal line for **A** begins with a sustained note. The lyrics "Who goesthere? Is it Mis-ter Frost! Crisp-ing air, on-ly Mis-ter" are sung. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note patterns.

A

At measure 12, the vocal part **A** continues with a sustained note. The piano accompaniment features eighth-note patterns and sustained notes.

12 BOTH

Frost! Danc-ing through the trees scat-ter-ing dust. Pran-cing through the trees, _____ Mis-ter

At measure 12, the vocal parts **BOTH** (treble and bass) sing the lyrics "Frost! Danc-ing through the trees scat-ter-ing dust. Pran-cing through the trees, _____ Mis-ter". The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note patterns and sustained notes.

This section of the musical score continues the piano accompaniment from the previous section, featuring eighth-note patterns and sustained notes.

Grandfather's Russian Songs

Piano/Vocal

15 Love Of My Life! - Duet

Words and music by
JOHN MILLS

YEVGENY Ya - na

YANA Yev - ge - ny

mp legato

A

4 she is the love of my life! Ya - a - na! Love of my life! All I
he is the love of my life! Yev - ge - ny Love of my life! All I

A

8 want is for us to be hap - py! My Ya - na Love of my life! My Ya - na
want is for us to be hap - py! Yev - ge - ny! Love of my life! Yev - ge - ny!
B

molto rit.

12 Love of my life!

pp
molto rit.

ppp

16 May Your Heart Feel Our Love

Words by JOHN MILLS
Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

A PRIEST

$\text{J.} = 40$

A

A child is

11

ALL

B PRIEST

born this day, this day. A child who brings us great joy, this day. A child so in-no-cent and

B

C

ALL

PRIEST

pure, so pure. Long life, good health, full of rich-es. May your heart feel our love.

mf

C

mf

17 A Mountain Of Salt

A

$\text{♩} = 80$

IVAN

Words by JOHN MILLS

Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER

Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

Thanks be to God, for show-ing me this

f

A

$\text{♩} = 80$

ff

f

8

moun tain. A moun-tain of salt with prom-ise of great wealth! I'll be rich be -

B $\text{♩} = 100$

ff

rit.

rit. $\text{♩} = 100$

B

mf

15

yond my dreams, I'll not know how to spend it! I shall keep it to my-self! Or give a bit a-way?

rit.

SALTY SEADOG

rit.