

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

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* 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!

12

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

B

Russ-ian stor-ies_ Russ-ian rhymes to

B

mp

02 One Little Act Of Kindness

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

Brightly ♩ = 80

A

So much joy_____ in just one
mp

Brightly ♩ = 80

A

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

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*

A

3 **BABAYAGA**

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!

04 His Flying Ship

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

$\text{♩} = 90$

A ^{JOKA} I am such a
He is
COMPANIONS

$\text{♩} = 90$

A
mf

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
mf

05 Oh, Such Treachery!

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

A

$\text{♩} = 95$

ALL JOKA

Yoi! Yoi! Long a - go myFath-er

mf

A

$\text{♩} = 95$

f *ff* *mf*

7 **B**

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

f

B

14

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

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 95. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) includes a vocal line with lyrics 'Yoi! Yoi! Long a - go myFath-er' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 7-13) includes a vocal line with lyrics 'taught me to tell the truth when-ev-er I dared op - en up my mouth! Long a -' and a piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 14-19) includes a vocal line with lyrics 'go my Moth-er showed me how to keep my word for that's what makes a fel-low such as' and a piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Rehearsal marks A and B are placed above the vocal lines at measures 3 and 7 respectively.

06 That's Me!

A

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

♩ = 80

SVETLANA

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

A

f

♩ = 80

MAXIM/ALL

That's me!/him!

SVETLANA

ALL Yoi!

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-ning likemy 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
Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

$\text{♩} = 80$

IVAN

A

mf I sing my song of

$\text{♩} = 80$

f *ff* *p*

7

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

la la la etc

mp

MISERY

13

B **C**

p MISERY

Ha ha ha ha, Mis-e - ry. Ha ha ha ha, Mis-e - ry. I shall bring you Mis-e - ry!

B **C**

08 The Lonely Prince Of Sadness

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

$\text{♩} = 80$

A *mp*

VASILLI Here, I sit a-

$\text{♩} = 80$

mf **A** *mp*

8

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

14

ALL **B**

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

B *mf*

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the vocal line starting with a box labeled 'A' and 'mp' (mezzo-piano), and the piano accompaniment starting with a box labeled 'A' and 'mp'. The second system shows the vocal line with lyrics and the piano accompaniment. The third system shows the vocal line with lyrics and the piano accompaniment, including a box labeled 'ALL' and 'B'.

09 Little River Volkhov

Words by JOHN MILLS

Music collected by KURT SCHINDLER

A SADKO Freely adapted by JOHN MILLS

♩ = 65

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

8

B

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.

20

rit. *molto rit.*
I give my heart to you. I give my heart to you!
p

10 I Love To Dance

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

$\text{♩} = 110$

A CASPIAN

I
mf

$\text{♩} = 110$

f *mf*

10

accel. . .

love to dance, I love to sing in the sea! Watch me danc - ing in the

accel. . .

19

B

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

f

B

f

11 Guess Who Stole The Turnips

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

(Turnip Thieves)

♩ = 85

A

TURNIP THIEVES

Did we steal the tur nips?

f

♩ = 85

mf

f

6 (Nodding heads) (Nodding heads)

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

11 **B** (Nodding heads)

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

mp *f*

B

mp *f*

12 That Igor Will Not Gain!

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

♩ = 75

TURNIP THIEVES **A**

Such a shame, you
mf

♩ = 75

A

f *ff* *mf*

9 **B**

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

B

mf

16 **C**

GALINA/
TURNIP
THIEVES

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

C

f *ff* *mp*

The musical score is written for piano and voice in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 75. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-8) features a vocal line with the lyrics 'Such a shame, you' and a piano accompaniment. A box labeled 'TURNIP THIEVES' and a section marker 'A' are placed above the vocal line. The piano part has dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *mf*. The second system (measures 9-15) continues the vocal line with 'don't know who to trust? that I-gor is to blame! Who will tell her the cause of all her'. A box labeled 'B' is placed above the vocal line. The piano part has a dynamic of *mf*. The third system (measures 16-22) continues the vocal line with 'pain? That I-gor is to blame! Such a shame, I/we'. A box labeled 'C' and 'GALINA/TURNIP THIEVES' is placed above the vocal line. The piano part has dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *mp*. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

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. $\text{♩} = 75$

A

$\text{♩} = 75$
f

mf

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

f

11 **molto rit.** **B** **ALL** **MARIA**

$\text{♩} = 75$

al-ways some-thing more for me/her to do! Wash, wash, wash at the
mf

molto rit. $\text{♩} = 75$

B

mf

14 Mister Frost

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

$\text{♩} = 90$

The piano introduction is in 3/4 time with a tempo of 90 beats per minute. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of eighth notes G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb2, and A2. The piece ends with a final chord of G3, Bb3, and D4.

7

A **MARIA** **FROST**

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

Maria's vocal part begins at measure 7. The piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of eighth notes G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb2, and A2. The piece ends with a final chord of G3, Bb3, and D4.

12

BOTH

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

The vocal part for both Maria and Frost begins at measure 12. The piano accompaniment features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of eighth notes G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, Bb2, and A2. The piece ends with a final chord of G3, Bb3, and D4.

15 Love Of My Life! - Duet

Words and music by
JOHN MILLS

♩. = 45

YEUGENY 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

B

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

B

mp

molto rit.

12 Love of my life! 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

$\text{♩} = 40$

A **PRIEST**

mp A__ child is

$\text{♩} = 40$

mf legato

A *mp*

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

21 **C** **ALL** **PRIEST**

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

mf

C *mf*

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/8 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 40. The score is divided into three main sections: A, B, and C. Section A is the opening, with a vocal line for the Priest and piano accompaniment. Section B follows, with a vocal line for all and piano accompaniment. Section C is the final part, with a vocal line for all and piano accompaniment. The piano part includes various dynamics such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano), and articulation like *legato*. The vocal lines are written in a simple, accessible style, with lyrics in English. The score is presented on a single page with a clean, professional layout.

17 A Mountain Of Salt

A

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

IVAN

$\text{♩} = 80$

Thanks be to God, for show-ing me this

f

ff

$\text{♩} = 80$

A

8

B

$\text{♩} = 100$

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

ff

mf

rit.

$\text{♩} = 100$

B

15

SALTY SEADOG

rit.

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.