

Hungarian Dance



Book 1 No. 5



The German composer Johannes Brahms (1833–97) loved the brilliance and spontaneity of Hungarian gypsy music, which he got to know through his youthful recital partnership with the Hungarian violinist Ede Reményi, a noted exponent of the gypsy style. In 1869 and 1880 he published two sets of *Hungarian Dances* for piano duet, based with varying degrees of freedom on authentic gypsy melodies. These were later orchestrated by various composers, and they were also arranged for violin and piano by Brahms's violinist friend Joseph Joachim – who transposed the fifth dance from F sharp minor to the more violinistic key of G minor. This precedent was followed by the Scottish violist Watson Forbes (1909–97) in his arrangement, which is less virtuosic than Joachim's but still preserves the flamboyance and the strong contrasts of colour of the gypsy style.

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