

## 5 Movements in *Out of Doors*

- I. “With Pipes and Drums”
- II. “Musettes”
- III. “Barcarolla”
- IV. “The Night’s Music”
- V. “The Chase”

I. “With Pipes and Drums” uses the piano in an explosive way. It uses heavy thumping in the lower register of the piano to imitate drums. The melody used is based off of a pre-existing folk tune, something he often used in his music.

II. “Barcarolla” is a modern take on a Venetian boat song. The oscillating figure heard throughout perhaps represents the waves experienced when riding on the water.

III. “Musettes” are small bagpipes. Bartok models this after the short keyboard works written centuries earlier by French composer Couperin, who tried to imitate bagpipes in these pieces.

IV. “The Night’s Music” (see below)

V. “The Chase” portrays the image of a creature being violently chased in the middle of the night. It’s fast, violent, and fun to listen to (and a demon to play)

Hungarian composer **Bela Bartok** (1881-1945) was a pianist, composer, teacher, and father of the field known as **Ethnomusicology**, the study of music from an ethnographic perspective. He was mainly interested in folk tunes from other Eastern European countries. Prior to World War I, Bartok traveled to Romania, Slovakia, and Bulgaria, among others, notating various folk tunes.

“The Night’s Music” is in ABACABA form. The A sections all contain “sound effects” instead of melody – short fragments to imitate insect sounds. The B section is a gently chorale, while the C sections contain music that imitates that of a peasant playing their flute. According to one of Bartok’s piano students, Bartok **didn’t** want the bug sounds to be played perfectly in time – he wanted the sound of spontaneity, as one would hear if being outside.

**Composer:** Bela Bartok

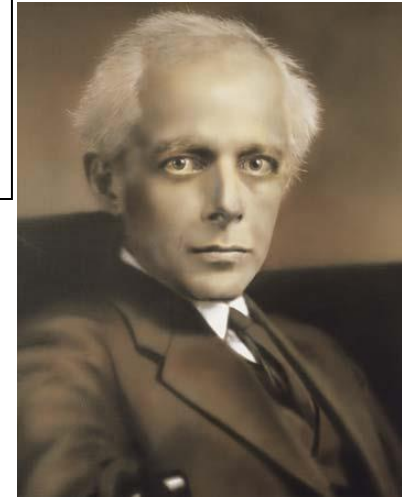
**Name of Composition:** “The Night’s Music” from *Out of Doors*

**Genre:** Individual movement from a Piano Suite (collection of short piano pieces)

**Form:** A very loose Rondo Form (ABACABA)

**Musical Genre/Style:** Modernist

**Additional Info:** This is one of many examples of Bartok exploiting his “insect music” style. No melodies can be heard in the first section; instead, you hear sound effects that sound like bugs chirping and the occasional bullfrog. The middle section of the piece sounds like you can hear folk singing and dancing in the background, but the chirping never goes away.



**Above:** Bela Bartok.  
**Left:** Bartok (4<sup>th</sup> from left) records peasants in Eastern Europe on an Edison Phonograph in 1907.