BANDURA STARTER B

COLLECTION OF BANDURA MUSIC
FOR THE BEGINNER STUDENT
(specially suited for the "Baby Poltavka")

Compiled by
Andrij Bebko, Ihor Mahlay and Oleh Mahlay

BANDURA EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION
1893 WEST ROYALTON ROAD
BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO 44147
U.S.A.
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(for the beginning bandura student)

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Bandura Educational Commission
1893 West Royalton Rd
Broadview Heights, Ohio  44147-2467
USA
With the growth of interest in the Ukrainian musical instrument, the bandura, the need for publishing music and supplementary materials has become a necessity. The Bandura Educational Commission has compiled such a collection for the "Baby Poltavka" - 3/4 size children's bandura to be played by elementary aged school children.

The songs in this collection can be played on a Chernihiv or Lviv bandura, or on a "Baby Poltavka". Where two bass notes are shown, the upper note is to be played if one has a "Baby Poltavka", and the lower note is to be played if one has a Chernihiv or Lviv bandura. The editors' fingering should serve as a guide for the new student. Alternative fingerings are suggested in parentheses.

We thank Andrij Bebko for compiling this material. We also extend our appreciation to Mykola Deychakiwsky, Oleh Mahlay, and Michael Andrec for their cooperation in editing.

Your financial support is needed to continue our projects. Your comments and donations are welcome.

Dr. Ihor Mahlay - Educational Coordinator
BASIC GUIDELINES FOR BEGINNING BANDURA STUDENTS

The bandura is played in a sitting position, and posture, just like for any instrument, is essential for a good instrumentalist. The bandurist should sit-up straight at the edge of the chair. The bandura rests between the student's legs, and the left leg should be slightly ahead of the right leg. Make sure the player's shoulders are level. The accompanying illustrations and helpful hints should help the student get a good start on the bandura. One basic principle to always remember is the importance of relaxation and absence of tension in a bandura player. Unnatural tension should be avoided, and always be looked out for.

The Right Hand:
* The wrist should be straight, and not bent.
* The hand itself should be relaxed, and imagine holding a small apple in your hand.
* Now place the right hand in a relaxed fashion onto the strings.
* Your fingers should come straight down from the hand to the strings.
* Playing the strings is done by moving the finger towards the body, and concentrating on using the fingertip instead of the whole hand.
* Play in the middle of the strings.

The Left Hand:
* Wrap hand around the neck of the bandura.
* Left hand is not solely responsible for holding the instrument - the legs must "balance" the bandura.
* The third finger is used to play the lower strings, and the second finger plays the higher strings of the basses.
* Left hand should not touch the pegs of the upper strings.
* When a string is played, the finger rests on the next higher string.
ILLUSTRATIONS OF BANDURA PLAYING POSITIONS

Proper Playing Position

Left Hand Position

Right Hand Position
СОНЕЧКО, СОНЕЧКО
SONECHKO, SONECHKO (SUN)
KY-KY
COO-COO
КОЛИСКОВА
KOLYSKOVA (LULLABY)

BANDURA EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION
ОЙ ХОДИЛА ДІВЧИНА
OY KHODYLA DIVCHYNA (ON THE BANK)

BANDURA EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION
ДВА ВЕДМЕДІ
DVA VEDMEDI (THE TWO BEARS)
ЗИМОНЬКО-СНИГУРОНЬКО
ZYMON’KO - SNIHURON’KO

BANDURA EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION
ОЙ ЛІТАЄ СОКОЛОНЬКО
OY LI Taye Sokolon'KA (THE FALCON)
ГОРЛИЦЯ
HORLYTSYA (THE EAGLE)
КАЗАЛА МЕНИ МАТІ
KAZALA MENI MATY (MOTHER'S WARNING)
В ПОЛІ, ПОЛІ ЩЕДРІВКА
V POLI, POLI SHCHEDRIVKA
(IN THE FIELD NEW YEAR'S SONG)
КИНУ КУЖІЛЬ НА ПОЛИЦЮ
KYNU KUZHL' NA POLYTSYU

BANDURA EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION
ХОЛОНИВСЬКА ПОЛЬКА
KHOLONIVS'KA POL'KA

BANDURA EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION
КУЧЕРЯВА КАТЕРИНА
KUCHERYAVA KATERYNA (KATHERINE)
БОГ ПРЕДВІЧНИЙ

BOH PREDVICHNYJ (GOD ETERNAL)