

INDIAN SUITE

Descriptive Notes

Nº 1. LOVE SONG SIOUX

This song was sung for me by Wm. Sylvester, a Gros Ventres Indian from Ft. Berthold, Montana. It was composed by a Sioux who was in love with the same Indian maiden. The text was in the Sioux dialect, and translated means "I want you all the day." This should be played slowly and in a very plaintive manner. It is one of the Indian songs that recorded with perfect intervals. The singer is an educated Indian, a fair musician, with a splendid voice. The phonograph recorded this song in F minor. I transposed it to E minor so as to be in accord with the other members in this suite.

Nº 2. LOVE SONG GROS VENTRES

Another song by Wm. Sylvester, his own love song. He used the Sioux dialect, because he did not wish his own tribal friends to recognize the song, i. e. the phonographic record, should it ever be played in public. When I recorded this I promised him that it would never be played in the presence of his friends. In the left hand the octaves should suggest the drums or tom toms. The triplets in the treble being characteristic of the Indian yell, are inserted for effect only, as the love song has no drum or other grotesque mannerisms associated with it. Play in moderato tempo counting six in the measure.

Nº 3. TOBACCO DANCE SONG CROW

The tobacco dance is a religious ceremony of the Crow Indians. Tobacco is burned as an incense during the prayers and dancing. Count two in the measure, and play the octaves to suggest the drums, not loud or boisterous. This song was recorded on the Crow reservation at the Reno Lodge, just below the Custer battlefield during the Indian dances at Christmas time, 1910.

Nº 4. WAR DANCE SONG

No 4 is a war dance song often heard. Its origin is unknown to me. I have heard it many times in different tribes. The sixteenth notes represent the vibratory tones of the singer. He sings *vibrato* and *portamento* and accents the first of each measure with voice. The drums beat eighths in fast *tempo*. Certain members of the tribe give a yell of some signifiance on the first eighth of each measure.

NOTE

The *intermezzo* is not Indian and is only intended to link together the several numbers of the suite. I refrained from too much elaboration as I wish to present these themes in a simple and attractive arrangement.

THURLOW LIEURANCE

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