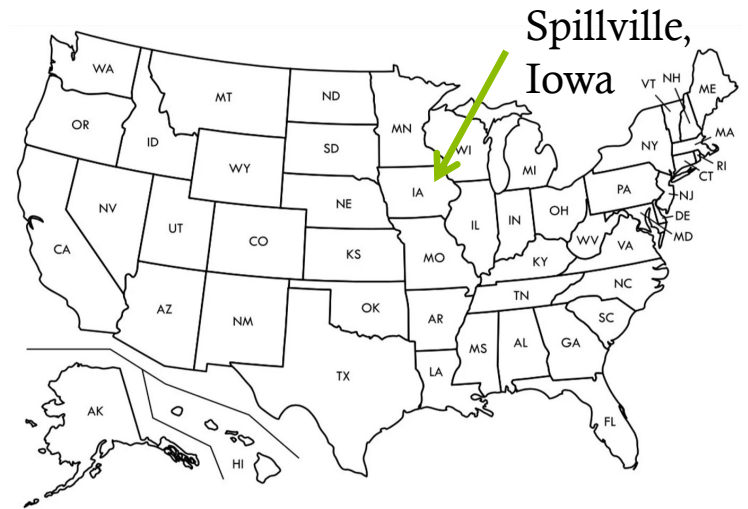


Birds in Bohemia, Birds in Iowa: Dvořák and Birdsong

By Anita Breckbill
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
IAML, Prague, July 2022





Turkey River, Spillville, Iowa



Birds in Music

✧ Type 1: **Quasi-Bird.**

✧ Uses birdlike elements—trills, tremolos, fast, disjunct motion, high instruments (flutes, clarinets, oboes, violins), jerky rhythm

✧ Type 2: **Specific Bird.**

✧ Copies a known birdsong

✧ Type 3: **Specific Bird that Shapes Piece.**

✧ Uses a specific birdsong as a compositional element shaping the piece.

259/

267

272J

Wagner, *Siegfried Idyll* -- George Solti, Vienna Philharmonic

Beethoven, *Pastoral Symphony* --end of mvt. 2

Fl. *Nachtigall* 130 *cresc.*

Ob. *Wachtel* 1.

Cl. *zu 2 Kuckuck*

This musical score snippet shows the woodwind section of the end of the second movement of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. It includes staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), and Clarinet (Cl.). The Flute part is marked 'Nachtigall' (Nightingale) and '130', with a 'cresc.' (crescendo) marking. The Oboe part is marked 'Wachtel' (Wren) and '1.'. The Clarinet part is marked 'zu 2 Kuckuck' (for 2 Cuckoo). The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.



Nightingale

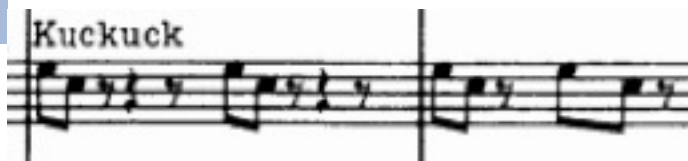




Common
Quail



Cuckoo



Beethoven, *Pastoral Symphony* --end of mvt. 2

Fl. *Nachtigall* 130 *cresc.*

Ob. *Wachtel* 1.

Cl. *zu 2 Kuckuck*

The image shows a musical score for the end of the second movement of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. It features three staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), and Clarinet (Cl.). The Flute part is marked 'Nachtigall' (Nightingale) and '130', with a 'cresc.' (crescendo) marking. The Oboe part is marked 'Wachtel' (Wren) and '1.'. The Clarinet part is marked 'zu 2 Kuckuck' (to 2 Cuckoo). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.



Dvořák with his pigeons



Park in Vysoká



Dvořák, *Symphony no. 8*

1st mvt., flute solo



2nd mvt.,
winds



4th mvt., cellos



AMERICAN MUSEUM
WOOD NOTES WILD

59.82:15.872
NOTATIONS OF BIRD MUSIC

BY

SIMEON PEASE CHENEY

AUTHOR OF THE "AMERICAN SINGING-BOOK"

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED WITH APPENDIX, NOTES,
BIBLIOGRAPHY, AND GENERAL INDEX

BY JOHN VANCE CHENEY

AUTHOR OF THE "GOLDEN GUESS" (ESSAYS ON POETRY), "THISTLE-
DRIFT" (POEMS), "WOOD BLOOMS" (POEMS), ETC.

BOSTON

LEE AND SHEPARD PUBLISHERS

10 MILK ST. NEXT "THE OLD SOUTH MEETING HOUSE"

1892

RED-EYED VIREO.

VIREO OLIVACEUS.

THIS lively, tireless singer, running rapidly after insects in the tops of the forest trees, singing as he goes, is heard more hours in a day and more days in the season than any other bird. There is no difficulty in distinguishing him, the bird so easy to hear and so hard to see. The clear, high tones of his rich voice are a constant repetition of a few triplets, but so ingeniously arranged as not to become wearisome:—



Simeon Pease Cheney

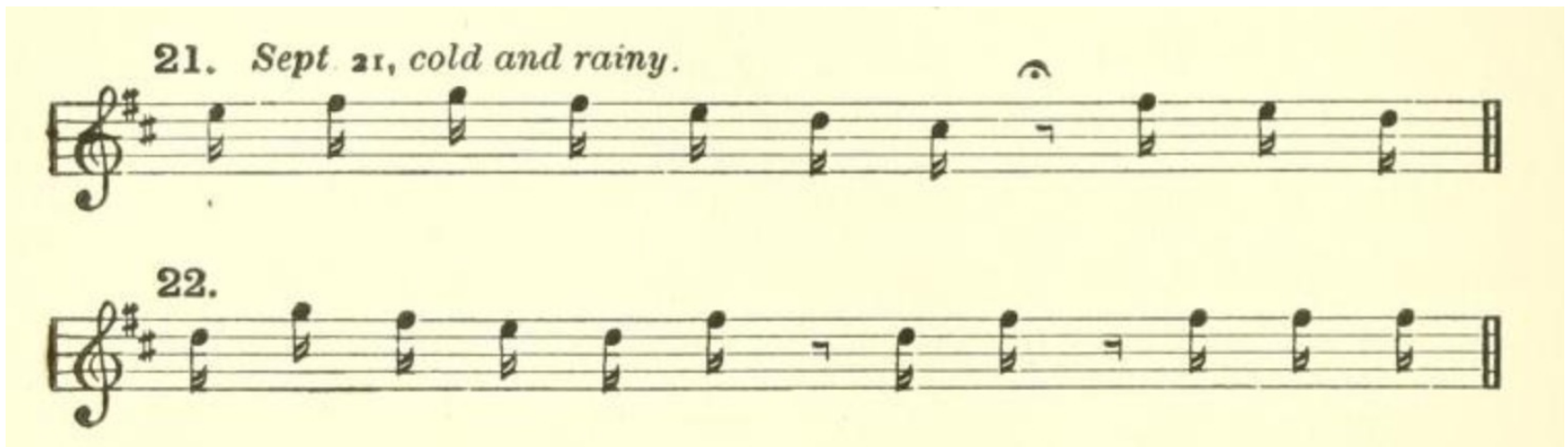
Wood Notes Wild: Notations of Bird Music
(Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1892).

Dvořák, *From the New World*

2nd mvt., winds and violins



Wood Notes Wild, American Robin



Dvořák, *From the New World*

3rd movement beginning, winds



Wood Notes Wild, American Robin



Or, Chickadee!

3rd movement, dance





Birdsong as copied by Josef Kovarik.

→
Scarlet Tanager



←
Red-eyed Vireo



Red-eyed Vireo, call and response

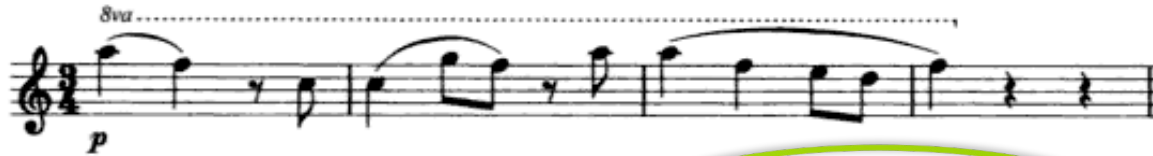
The image displays a musical score for the third movement of Dvořák's American Quartet. The score is written for four staves (treble and bass clefs for two parts each) in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system includes dynamic markings of *ff* (fortissimo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The second system includes dynamic markings of *p* (piano). The score is annotated with green arrows pointing to specific musical phrases, which are identified as bird themes: Red-eyed Vireo call and response, and Scarlet Tanager bird theme.

Scarlet
Tanager,
bird theme



Dvořák, *American Quartet*, 3rd movement

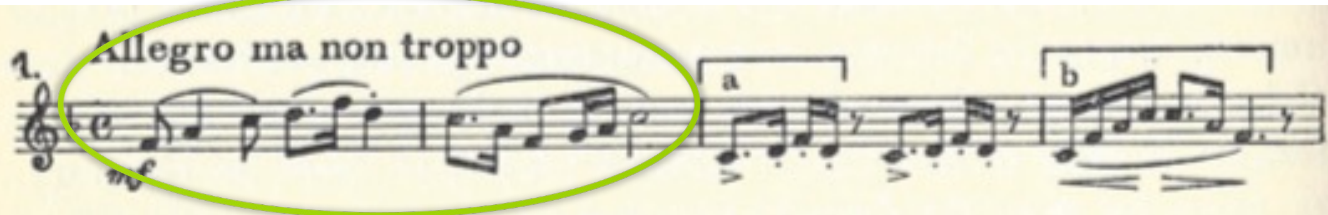
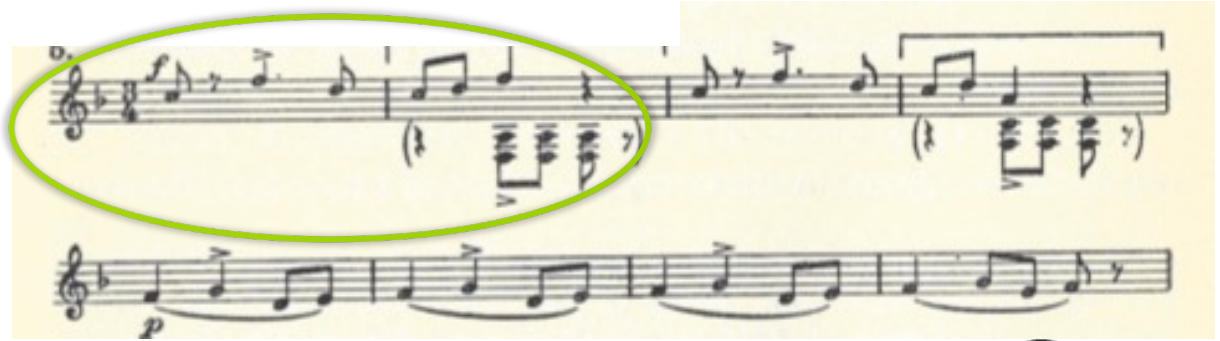
Note and scale



3rd mvt. bird



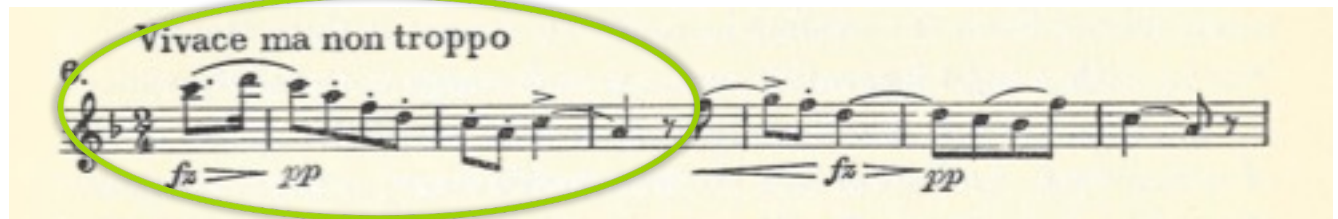
3rd mvt. theme



1st mvt. theme



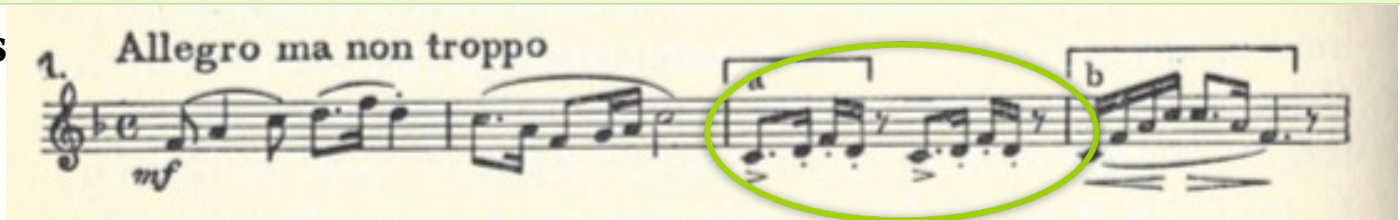
4th mvt. theme



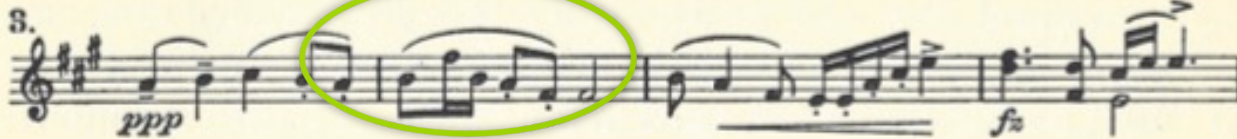
Birdy Gestures

Jerky rhythms

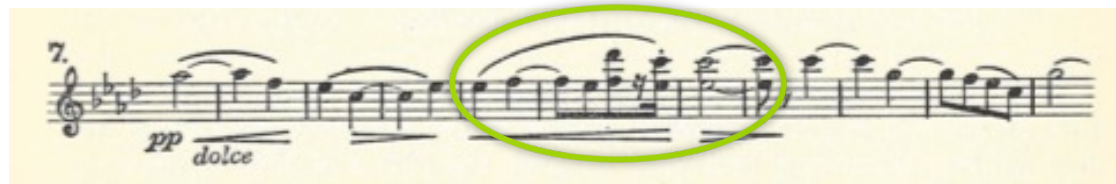
1st mvt. theme



Unexpected leaps

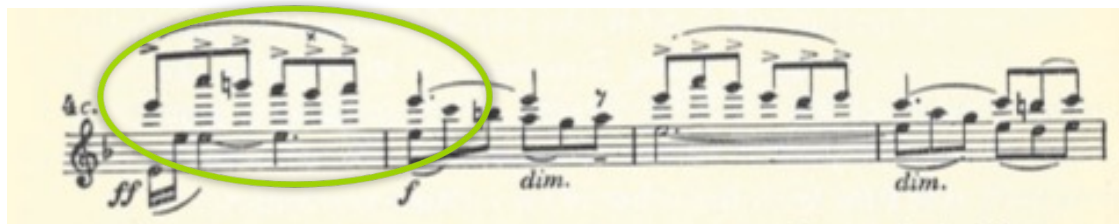


1st mvt.



3rd mvt.

Super high notes



2nd mvt.

Resources and Acknowledgements

Thanks to **David Beveridge**, who sent texts and translations of Dvořák's and Kovařík's diaries.

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