

# Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

from the Opera “Prince Igor”

*Alexander Borodin  
orchestrated by Rimsky Korsakov*

*arranged by Paul De Bra for  
accordion quintet or orchestra  
(1, 2, 3, 4, bass, timpani, triangle, tambourine)*

Alexander Borodin spent the last eighteen years of his life on his opera “Prince Igor” but died (in 1887) before completing it. Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Alexander Glazunov completed the opera and Rimsky-Korsakov did the orchestration. The opera features several Polovetsian Dances. This arrangement contains the introduction and the first two of these dances.

The arrangement can be played by accordion quintet but also (and perhaps better) by a larger ensemble with percussion added.

Although Dance II goes fast and contains some fast runs it is not really difficult (as the runs are straightforward and short).

The parts for the three percussion instruments are included individually as well as combined (which certainly helps when there is just one percussionist).

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube. It was played as quintet (so without diviso) plus percussion (generated by Musescore).

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# Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

## From the Opera "Prince Igor"

Alexander Borodin  
orchestrated by Rimsky Korsakov  
arr. Paul De Bra

## Introduzione

**Andantino** ♩ = 75-85

1

*Andantino* ♫ = 75-85

Acc. 1      *p dolce* (mild tremolo)

Acc. 2

Acc. 3      *p*      *b* *3*

Acc. 4      *div. if possible*      *p*      *dolce*      *dolce*

Bass      *pp*      *pizz. (long decay)*      *pp*

Timpani

Triangle

Tambourine

5

I

II

III

IV

B

(when (●) is not in cassotto, use (●) 8va instead)

3

3

8

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

switch to loco if needed

## Dance I

**Dance I**

15

I      *mp* pizz. (long)

II

III      *p*      diviso in larger ensembles,  
use M.B. for lowest note when  
playing solo if needed  
portatissimo (quasi legato)

IV      *p* pizz.

B      8      *p*

Musical score for orchestra, page 19, measures 1-8. The score consists of five staves (I, II, III, IV, B) in G major (two sharps). Staff I features eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Staff II consists of sustained chords. Staff III has a single note at measure 8. Staff IV shows eighth-note chords. Staff B shows eighth-note chords.

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

23

(mild tremolo)

*pp*

*mp cantabile espressivo*

*pp*

*pp*

27

## diviso (mild tremolo) and (mild tremolo) in larger ensemble Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

31

*f cantabile*  
use (mild tremolo) if (mild tremolo) sounds too sharp

*mp*

*mf cantabile vibrato*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

Trgl.

35

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

5

39

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Trgl.

43

(poco accel. ad lib)

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Trgl.

## Dance II

Allegro vivo  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 125$ 

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

small notes tacet (2nd voice)

Acc. 1

Acc. 2

Acc. 3

Acc. 4

Bass

Timpani

Triangle

Tambourine

I

II

III

IV

B

Timp.

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

7

8

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timpani.

(use  loco on small accordions)

11 8

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timpani.

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

14 8

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timp.

17 8

(in large ensemble div. and

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timp.  
Tamb.

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

9

20

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timp.  
Tamb.

23

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timp.  
Tamb.

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

(use  loco on small accordions)

26



I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timp.  
Tamb.

*ff*

*f*

*f*

*f*

8



I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timp.  
Tamb.

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

11

31 8

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timp.  
Tamb.

34 8

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Timp.  
Tamb.

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

37

40

**Accelarando**

I  
II  
III  
IV  
B  
Tamb.  
Tamb.

**p** >

**p** > **p** 3

**p** >

**p** > **p** cresc. poco a poco

**pp** > **pp** cresc. poco a poco

**pp** > **pp** cresc. poco a poco

**ppp** > **ppp** cresc. poco a poco

## Polovetsian Dances (1-2)

13

43

I

II *p cresc. poco a poco*

III

IV *pp cresc. poco a poco*  
div or A on M.B.

B

Timp.

Tamb.

*f sf*  
(trill upper note only)  
*tr*~~~~~

*f sf*  
(trill upper note only)  
*tr*~~~~~

*f sf*

*f sf*

*f sf*

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