

An easy tune for beginners to the Anglo Concertina / Button Accordion

Henry's Waltz

Henry's Waltz is an easy and pretty little waltz which well suited to playing on the anglo concertina and the button accordion. A nice tune is produced using few finger moves and direction changes of the bellows, and it is easy to add simple chord emphasis by hitting an adjacent button on the '... two three' beats. We will get to this a little later.

First print the score out. Now start by putting a little air in the bellows, take a gentle breath using the air button under the right side thumb if using an Anglo, or the left thumb if using a C button box. (I will address these notes to Anglo concertina players but the Button Boxers amongst you should be able to follow without too much trouble, both instruments are similar).

Use the middle row of your Anglo to play in the key of C, though exactly the same fingering pattern on the bottom row can be used if you want to play it in G. The first bar is played by pressing button 5 with the forefinger of the left hand and pushing the bellows gently together. Although this G note is one note lasting for three counts try to emphasize the beats a little by giving a very slight emphasis to each as you count 'ONE two three'. This will help give the tune its nice waltz rhythm. You could play each beat as a separate or distinct note, but just as an exercise, much better to respect the note lengths as written and add the dynamics with gentle emphasis on the bellows.

The second bar is exactly the same only you pull the bellows gently apart while leaving the forefinger on the same button to get the A. As with bar one slightly emphasize each beat, 'ONE two three'.

Bar three goes back to the G by pushing the bellows together on the first two counts, 'ONE two...'. But the 'three' count, the F, is produced by pressing button 4 with the left middle finger and pulling the bellows apart.

And to complete this first four bar musical phrase, bar 4 is simply 'ONE two three' counts to produce the E, leaving the middle finger on button 4 but pressing the bellows together. Sound nice? I hope so. Go over these four bars a few times so they become familiar.

2.

So, to **verbalise the bellows directions** when playing these first four bars of Henry's Waltz you could say '**PUSH push push, PULL pull pull, PUSH push pull, PUSH push push**'.

The next musical phrase is bars 5, 6, 7, 8, see if you can figure these out using the printed score and bellows notes under for yourself. Breaking the tune into separate four bar musical phrases makes it easy to get a grasp on it. Work through the tune phrase by phrase. Like many songs and especially tunes Henry's Waltz is a strict tempo 32 bar tune meant to fit a dance cycle, so all your little phrases fit into a neat set format representing one cycle through a dance set.

When you come to play bar 6 you will use the forefinger of the right hand on button 6 / push or in to get the upper C on the '...three' count. And the same finger and button is used to get the B in bar 7 and bar 8, only 'PULL pull pull'. So there you are, another 4 bar phrase complete. Not too difficult is it? Work through the tune a little at a time. To **verbalize the bellows direction** for these for bars, 5, 6, 7 and 8, you would say '**PUSH push push, PULL pull push, PULL pull pull, PULL pull pull**'.

You get the idea. I'm going to leave you to work through the rest of the tune at your leisure. Do a little bit at a time, say four bars, get up and walk away if you want and come back later, you will be surprised how quickly you become familiar with the pattern. You will be halfway through at bar 32.

An easy and nice enhancement to your tune is in emphasizing the '... two three' beats of each bar by making a simple little two note chord. Hit the adjacent button to the one being pressed. Hold the melody note but make separate stabs on the harmony note to accentuate the '... two three' beats. Not every time but it works well at certain places through the tune.

That's the good thing about anglos (and accordions and harmonicas), it is easy to make chords as generally adjacent buttons produce notes that are a third apart, and thirds are the basis of chordal harmony (ie. the first, the third and the fifth notes together will make either a nice fat major or a minor chord).

Henry's Waltz

C F C F G7 Dm C G7 F C

5in 5out 5in 4out 4in 5in 5out 6in 6out 7out 6in 6out 5out 5in

F C F C F G7 Dm C

5out 4out 4in 5in 5out 5in 4out 4in 5in 5out 6in 6out 7out 6in

G7 F C G7 C

6out 5out 5in 5out 5in 4out 4in 3out 3in 4in 5in 5out 5in 5out 5in 4in

Dm C G7 C

5in 5out 5in 5out 5in 3out 5in 5out 5in 6out 5out 5in 3out 4out 4in

Dm C G7

5in 5out 5in 5out 5in 4in 5in 5out 5in 5out 5in 3out 5in 5out 5in 6out 5out

C

5in 4out 3out 3in