Petrucci Website for Free Music Scores

www.imslp.org

This article will help you to find and download free music parts for music that is no longer in copyright. This covers most classical music up to and including the first half of the 20th century. (Copyright law in the UK states that if the composer creates an original piece of music, the copyright remains with his or her estate for 70 years after the death of the composer.)

The article is in two sections: first how to find a music part and secondly how to download it.

Be aware that although Petrucci is free, it survives because of prominent adverts. These are usually at the top of the page and can mislead you. For example, **ignore** any large button that says 'Download for Free Now', or 'Open', or similar!

Finding your music

*If you are looking for a part required for a specific workshop or concert, chances are we will have given you the link to the page that you need, in which case go straight to '**Downloading Your Music**' below, otherwise read on.*

1. Go to the Petrucci website at www.imslp.org . It is a huge website, organised so that it is easy to find an individual piece of music, which is what we are concerned with here, or, for example, all pieces of music by a particular composer, or, for example, all music for string quartet, etc., etc.

2. I'll use an example of finding the cello part for Mendelssohn's incidental music, 'Midsummer Night's Dream', Opus 61.

Here we go: on the welcome page you'll find a search box; use it to 'search the imslp website' for 'Mendelssohn Midsummer Night's Dream'. You'll be taken to a page of search results. Usually, the one you need will be right at the top. Click on it to go to the page where you will be able to scroll and find the link to your download.

Downloading your music

1. Scroll down the page and find a heading, '**Sheet Music'**. Below this you will find several **tabs**, including one that says, '**Parts'**. Click on this tab. In our example, you'll then see that the link for Flutes is already displayed – *below this* is a section **=> 11 more**. Click on this section and you will then find the link to the cello part listed with the other 10 instruments for this piece of music.

2. Click on the part that says '**Cellos'**. On the page that you are then taken to, **IGNORE THE BOXED ADVERT** at the top of the page, even if it says 'Start Download', or there is a 'Download' button. Also, on most of the rest of the page you will find a plea to subscribe to Petrucci and if you do the reward is that the adverts will be removed and won't annoy you.

If you aren't subscribed, you'll also discover that there is a sentence explaining the delay timer operating of 15 seconds and you have to wait patiently until this turns into the link to your download. After 15 seconds you will then see a sentence/link that says **'Click here to continue to your download'** Go ahead! There may be a 'terms and conditions' or 'disclaimer' link to click (a line in quite small type), which is fine.

3. Your music will be available to save as a .pdf file and after doing this can be opened and your part printed.

 Try it with my example and then try an example of your own. There will always be small variations to the process described, but essentially it is the same each time.