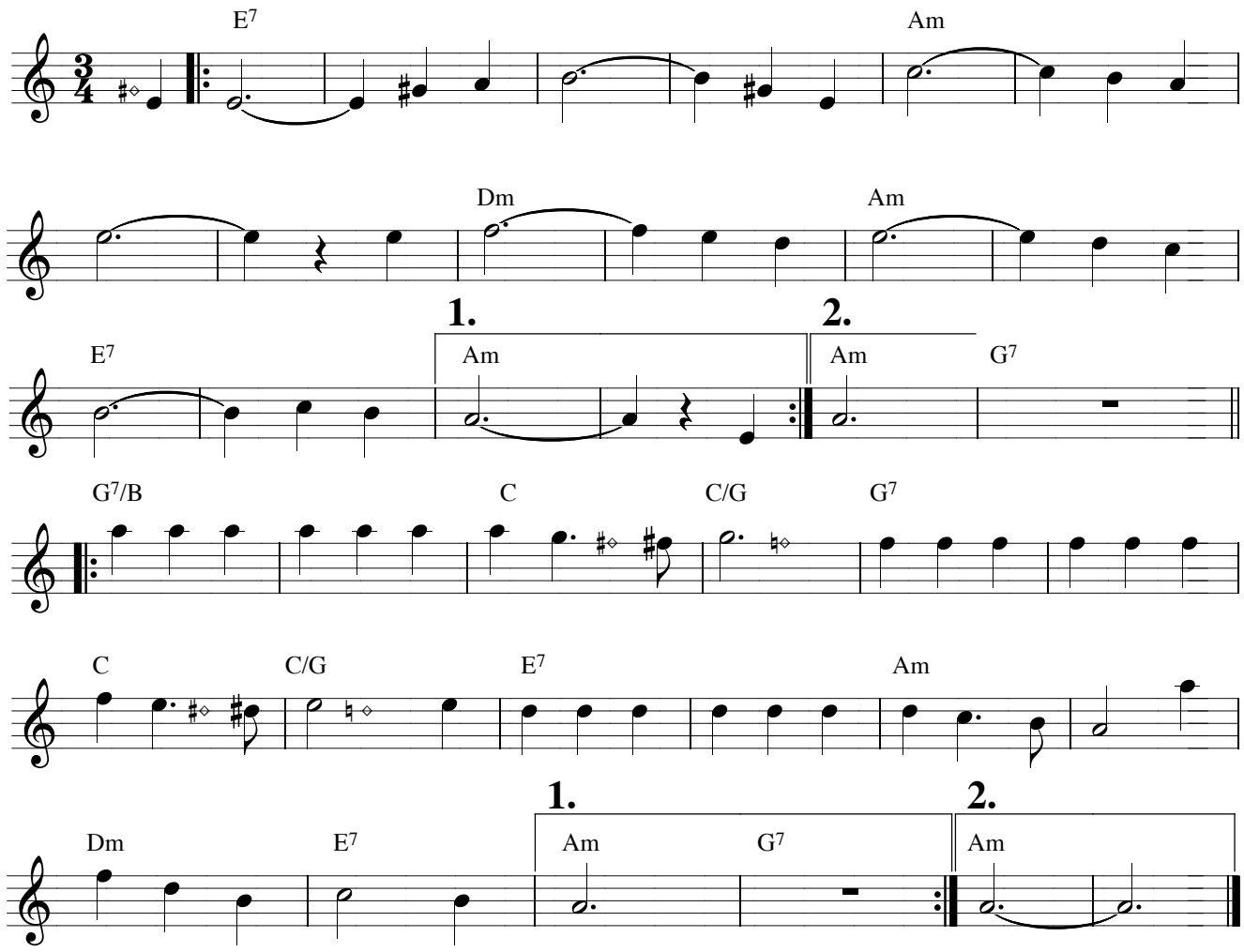
Waves of the Danube

Josef Ivanovici (1845-1902)
composed for the 1899 Paris Exposition
published as The Anniversary Song in 1946
by Al Jolson and Saul Chaplin



This is the second of the Great Lakes Harpers lead sheet tutorials. This time, the full harp solo arrangement was presented first, in an arrangement by Annette Bjorling. This lead sheet is in the same key, so as you work from it, you should remember the patterns in the full arrangement. A lead sheet gives only the basic outline of the music with the details of interpretation left to the performer. An easy way to learn to read lead sheets is to begin with a full arrangement, then move to reading a lead sheet. By studying the ideas of other musicians, you learn how to make your own arrangements.

Annette used a simple waltz accompaniment that suits this piece beautifully. Note that sometimes she used an "oom-pah-pah" waltz figure and sometimes she simply outlines the chord. Compare the notes in the full arrangement to the chords given and you'll see that this lead sheet is a map of Annette's full version. The scale passage in measure 19 is not part of the original melody so is not included here. The scale used in this way is a great example of an embellishment to a melody. It's a nice transition into the "B theme" of the piece. You could use a gliss or arpeggio as well.

Lever shifts are given here only for the treble clef. If you keep all the G#s needed above middle C, you omit two lever shifts. If you'd rather have the G# in the bass clef, you might want to write in the lever shift until you can remember it. Study Annette's version and you'll see that she cleverly avoids the need to shift both G#s to G♮.

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