

Happy Birthday To Me
for Piano



Bill Robinson

Happy Birthday To Me for Piano

(September 18—October 17, 2025) Duration; 5 minutes

for Anatoly Larkin

Although I have written for piano since 1972, my works for solo piano have not survived my voracious trashcan. Before this piece, I only had one surviving score, the *Goldbug Variations* in versions for either piano or harpsichord. In preparation for a big concert at Duke University for my 71st birthday in January 2026, there opened up some room on the program, and I took advantage to write this very short piece for the featured pianist Anatoly Larkin.

I'm hoping that pianists will find this to be a fun little item to play on concerts near their own birthdays. Classical radio stations use birthdays for both composers and performers, and maybe they'll take the bait. Who knows?

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*cover photo: composer and mother on his first day,
January 15, 1955*

Happy Birthday To Me [5']

Theme (♩ = 100)

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Musical notation for the Theme of 'Happy Birthday To Me'. The piece is in 3/4 time, marked with a tempo of 100 beats per minute (♩ = 100). The notation is for piano, with a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Continuation of the musical notation for the Theme. The piece is in 3/4 time. The notation is for piano, with dynamic markings of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

(♩ = 76)

Var. 1 Allegro assai vivace ma non serio

Musical notation for Variation 1 of 'Happy Birthday To Me'. The piece is in 2/4 time, marked with a tempo of 76 beats per minute (♩ = 76). The notation is for piano, with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Continuation of the musical notation for Variation 1. The piece is in 2/4 time. The notation is for piano, with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo). The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

21

21

24

24

ff dim.

28

28

f *(mf)* *p* *ff*

31

31

34

34

37

37

40

poco rit.

ff dim. f

40

44

Var. 2 (♩ = 70)

dolce

(mf) p

44

48

mp

48

51

mf p

51

54

(mf)

Var. 3
Tempo I (♩ = 100)

57

f *f* *mp* *p*

62

f *cresc.*

65

ff *ff*

68

8va

hbtm

71

(8va)-1

74

77

rit.

ff dim.

Leg.

(♩ = ♩)

80

(rit.)

8va

a tempo

Var. 4

(mf)

(mp)

pp

p

Leg.

84

8va

87

dim. *pp* *p* *8va*

Var. 5 (♩ = 170)

91

mf

96

f

101

ff *dim.*

106

(mf) *mp cresc.* *(mf)*

112

f *ff*

118

f

122

mf *cresc.* *f*

128

ff *mf* *mf* Var. 6

134

p *mp*

138

mf

142

f *dim.* (*mp*)

146

(*p*) *pp*

Var. 7 Birthday Rag (♩ = 90)

150

ff *f*

155

159

cresc. *ff*

This system contains measures 159 to 162. It is written for piano with a grand staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 2/4. Measure 159 starts with a *cresc.* marking and a dashed line indicating a crescendo. Measure 160 continues the crescendo. Measure 161 features a *ff* (fortissimo) marking. Measure 162 ends the system. The music consists of complex chords and arpeggiated patterns in both hands.

163

This system contains measures 163 to 166. The key signature remains two flats. The time signature changes to 3/4 in measure 164 and back to 2/4 in measure 166. The music continues with complex harmonic textures and arpeggiated figures.

167

This system contains measures 167 to 169. The key signature changes to one flat (B-flat) in measure 167. The time signature is 2/4. Measure 167 features a long, sustained chord in the left hand. The music continues with complex textures.

170

This system contains measures 170 to 172. The key signature changes to one sharp (F-sharp) in measure 170. The time signature is 2/4. The music continues with complex textures and arpeggiated patterns.

173

p

This system contains measures 173 to 176. The key signature remains one sharp. The time signature is 2/4. Measure 173 starts with a *p* (piano) marking. The system concludes with a double bar line in measure 176. The music features complex textures and arpeggiated patterns.