

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?

Bill Robinson

Publisher Parrish Press First Edition Garner NC October 2025

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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 *mp* (mezzo-piano). The melody is in the right hand, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is indicated as (♩ = 100).

Continuation of the musical notation for the Theme. The piece is in 3/4 time, marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). The melody is in the right hand, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is indicated as (♩ = 100).

(♩ = 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 *ff* (fortissimo). The melody is in the right hand, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is indicated as (♩ = 76).

Continuation of the musical notation for Variation 1. The piece is in 2/4 time, marked *ff* (fortissimo). The melody is in the right hand, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line is in the left hand, starting with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is indicated as (♩ = 76).

21

21

24

24

ff dim.

28

28

f

(mf)

p | *ff*

31

31

34

34

37

38 39

40

poco rit.

ff dim. f

41 42 43

44

Var. 2 $\text{♩} = 70$

dolce

mf p

45 46 47

48

mp

49 50

51

mf p cresc. (mp)

52 53 54

54

(*mf*)

Var. 3
Tempo I (♩ = 100)

57

f *f* *mp* *p*

62

f *cresc.*

65

ff *ff*

68

8vb

hbtm

71

(8^{vb})⁻¹

74

77

rit.

ff dim.

Red.

(rit.)

80

(mf)

(mp)

pp

p

Red.

a tempo

Var. 4

*

84

8^{vb}

87

dim. *pp* *p*

8va

(8vb)

91

Var. 5 (♩ = 170)

mf

96

f

101

ff *dim.*

106

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

112

f *ff*

118

122

mf *cresc.* *f*

128

ff *mf*

(♩ = ♩)
Var. 6

134

mp

138

mf

142

f *dim.* *(mp)*

146

(p) *pp*

Var. 7 Birthday Rag (♩ = 90)

150

ff *f*

155

159

Measures 159-162. The score is in bass clef with a treble clef for the right hand. Measure 159 has a *cresc.* marking. Measure 162 has a *ff* marking. The music features complex chordal textures and melodic lines in both hands.

163

Measures 163-166. The score is in bass clef with a treble clef for the right hand. Measures 163-164 are in 3/4 time, and measures 165-166 are in 2/4 time. The music features complex chordal textures and melodic lines in both hands.

167

Measures 167-169. The score is in bass clef with a treble clef for the right hand. Measures 167-168 are in 3/4 time, and measure 169 is in 2/4 time. The music features complex chordal textures and melodic lines in both hands.

170

Measures 170-172. The score is in bass clef with a treble clef for the right hand. Measures 170-171 are in 3/4 time, and measure 172 is in 2/4 time. The music features complex chordal textures and melodic lines in both hands.

173

Measures 173-176. The score is in bass clef with a treble clef for the right hand. Measures 173-174 are in 3/4 time, and measures 175-176 are in 2/4 time. The music features complex chordal textures and melodic lines in both hands. Measure 175 has a *p* marking.