Note on Hungarian Pronunciation

As for vowel sounds, the Hungarian a is somewhat darker than the English, as in father rather than yam; the \acute{a} , by contrast, is bright and forward, as in cat. When written with an acute accent, the unmarked o as in moth becomes the long o as in soap. Otherwise, the acute accent primarily affects the length of the syllable rather than the sound. The Hungarian i sounds like the English long ee (fee), the Hungarian e like the English ay (pay), and the Hungarian e like the English oo (or the e0 in e1, all are clipped when spelled without the accent mark and elongated with it. The vowels e2 and e3 are elongated equivalents of the shorter e3 and e4, which are pronounced as they are in German.

Thus, in approximate transliteration:

Bartók BAR-toak (with the oa long, as in soap)

Kadosa KAH-doe-sha

Losonczy LO-shon-see (with both o's dark and short, as in

moth)

Lukács LOO-kach (with the *a* bright and elongated)

Mihály MEE-high (the forward a blends with the cluster ly)

Nagy NODGE

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Rákosi RA-ko-shee (with the *a* forward, as in *cat*, and

elongated)

Révai RAY-vaw-yee

Szabó SOB-oh Székely SAY-kay

Széll SAIL

Szervánszky SER-van-skee (with bright, forward, somewhat

elongated *a*)