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Classical Banjo: Banjo/Solos



Synopsis

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Book Information

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Reference

Customer Reviews

Book was a leap of faith for me because there was very little data to form a judgement. Initially it appeared it would be too difficult to be of use to me, a beginner/intermediate player, but eventually I found some pieces I could play, slooowly, and enjoy. The book contains twenty-two classical pieces, and the ones I have tried in the first month are beautiful. You are led through successive harmonies that at first impression, surprise, but then quickly resonate and seem perfect. It is what I would call abstract banjo, a welcome alternative to straight-ahead, driving folk and traditional. Nothing against those genre, they are quite enjoyable also, but some of us incline to pushing into new territory, and this book does that. From my perspective the choices are very good: pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Scarlatti, Pachelbel, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, some Spanish composers, French Impressionists, and finally some Ukrainian Folk pieces brought to light. I would recommend this book to intermediate to advanced players, and rate at 4 stars rather than 5 because some of the chords are, for me, impossible reaches of several frets. Beginners may also want to try it, but don't break a wrist! =:) This book is comparable with 'Beyond Bluegrass Banjo' by Hollender and Glaser,

Tony Trischka's Collection of 59, and 'Bach for the Banjo' by ???. Another more elementary, but worthwhile, book I have in the traditional/folk genre, is the one by Tim Jumper. Banjo Players Songbook or something similar. It contains many quiet playable and enjoyable pieces with a range of difficulty.

Good arrangements for 5 string banjo of popular classical pieces. Most pieces in the key of open G tuning, some in the key of C major tuning as well.

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