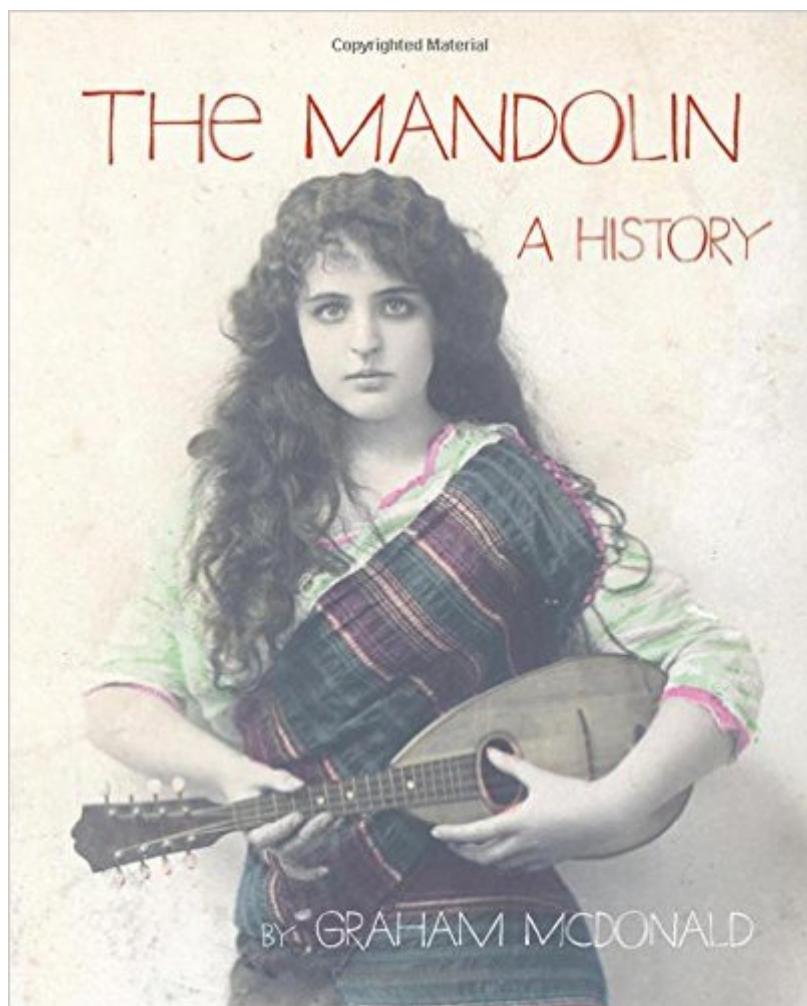


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# The Mandolin: A History



## Synopsis

The mandolin is a fascinating and diverse musical instrument that spans across centuries and continents. With photographs and in-depth details, this book traces the history of the mandolin and its family that can be found around the world. There are detailed stories that tell who, where, why, and how each beautiful piece was made. Included are chapters such as "The American Mandolin," "Gibson," "The Middle Ages & Renaissance," and "Spain, Portugal & Beyond."

## Book Information

Paperback: 420 pages

Publisher: Graham McDonald Stringed Instruments; 1st edition (January 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0980476275

ISBN-13: 978-0980476279

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.9 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #943,700 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #111 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Mandolins #3260 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > History & Criticism

## Customer Reviews

If you love the mandolin, you will probably love this book and learn from it. I was one of the 300 people who contributed to the Kickstarter campaign that got this book into print, and I'm glad I did. It is certainly the best book on the history of the mandolin that I've seen. If you are an obsessive reader of MandolinCafe posts, you may already know much of what is in the book, but you will still find things you didn't know and photos you haven't seen. McDonald covers an immense amount of information. He includes not only mandolins, but many instruments that are only slightly related to mandolins, from ouds to baglamas to tars to pipas to waldzithers. They aren't mandolins, true, but if you are like me you may find yourself looking one over, listening to it on YouTube, then finding one on eBay. Nearly every time I read a chapter and thought, "I wish McDonald had included . . .," I found a chapter on it later in the book. The book is over four hundred pages long, but I wish it were twice as long. There are several dozen typing errors, but I didn't catch any errors of fact, though there may be a few. Is there anything not in the book that I'd like to see? Well, sure. There are lots of

photos of old mandolins in the book, a number of which (mandolins, not photos) I've owned or played (and I loved that), but very little about the characteristic tones of these. (I can confirm for McDonald that the Parker Peerless Octave Bandola sounds as much like a banjo as it sounds like a mandola, and that may be the source of the name.) I would love to see a few hundred more photos of various models and of the work of contemporary builders. Hey, I'd like to see the top hundred builders each get two color pages for photos of their best work. I'd like to see a list of builders.

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