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Bach For Banjo: 20 Pieces Arranged For 5-String Banjo



Synopsis

The banjo shares many of the same sonic qualities as a harpsichord, so although it's so closely associated with more homespun genres, the instrument actually lends itself very well to classical music! The pieces in Bach for Banjo are in tablature only with chord symbols, arranged at the beginning to intermediate level for five-string banjo players. As in classical guitar arrangements, the melody and harmony are combined. Most pieces are on facing pages with no page turns required, and beginners can pick through the selections at a slow pace. The book features just the best-known parts of 20 beloved Bach pieces: Air on the G String * Arioso * Minuet in G * Sheep May Safely Graze * Sleepers, Awake * and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was my first introduction to classical music on the banjo. Until now I have played bluegrass and some folk songs. But, after hearing some classical numbers, I just had to see if I could possibly play that kind of music. I can hardly put my banjo down once I start working on the songs in this book. My wife thinks I have lost my mind switching from bluegrass to Bach, but hey, I am only 60 yrs. old, so it is time for a change and plenty of time to make it. Now, in my opinion it would be a bit much for the beginning banjo player. But, if you are going to painstakingly pick one note at a time anyway and playing classical is your ultimate goal, just be patient with yourself - it will pay off in the end. Oh, one more thing. There is a very good classical banjo CD called Bach on the Banjo by John Bullard. I thought that it would supplement this book, but of the 9 tracks on the CD

only 3 of them are Bach. The rest are great, though. I am just saying that the CD is not a perfect fit for the book of the same name. See you at Carnegie. :-)

These songs lend themselves to the banjo very easily. This book contained all of the pieces I hoped to play, and a few that hadn't even occurred to me, but I'm glad they're there. I'm a beginner on the Banjo, and some of the pieces still look a little above my comfort level. There are plenty, though, that have been very easy to pick-through and are very satisfying to play.

Really glad I bought this. It has taken my self-teachings to a new level, and for someone who is used to picking bluegrass licks - complimenting my practices with some Bach is a great way to rewire my musician's brain. Know that this book is not for a beginning though, so if you are just starting out on the banjo, I suggest holding off on starting this one until you feel moderately proficient. For context - I've been playing banjo for 5 years now, and have been a semi-professional musician for 25 years (guitar, bass, and piano - mostly jazz and rock) - and learning Bach on banjo has been a good challenge for my skills. I've had the book for almost two months, and practice from it maybe 60-90 minutes each week. I like to be able to play through a piece completely before moving on to something new, and due to the level of effort required for these songs, I have yet to make it past the the first composition Air on the G string. Be sure to play with a metronome too - just as you would when learning a classical piece on any other instrument.

Great book that elevates the banjo but suffers from the lack of a companion CD. These are banjo-specific arrangements and it would be most helpful to actually hear them being played. Some of the tunes one can learn as written, but others like "Air" really need to be heard to play the unique arrangement that has been modified to fit the banjo.

Really Excellent. I change some of the ways that the notes are played to fit my ear, changing which string and fret to use to get the same note. If you play the banjo that is easy to do. I am not greatly fond of the use of hammer on that he uses, but again, easy to change to fit your own ear if you want. Not for the beginner, at least it doesn't seem that way to me. It seems more appropriate for advanced beginner or intermediate levels. Advanced players who haven't tried classical music should really enjoy it.

The pieces in this book are an excellent representation of classical music for banjo. However, I am

very much the beginner and I'm struggling with it. The tablature is easy to read, but they are complicated pieces. Overall, I am pleased and I plan on sticking it out to master every one.

Beautifully translated in tabs + right hand fingering, for 5-string banjo. I've been playing 2-1/2 years, in various styles, and love this book. Confidence and improved playing by learning some of these pieces, and never tire of practicing such beautiful music. If you are at all inclined, you won't regret purchasing this.

This is a little more difficult for my skill level (beginner) but not so difficult that I will give up. I like it for the finger exercise, more finger movement than other banjo books. Not quite ready for the BSO but still having fun

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