



BOOK and CD &29.99 plus shipping and tax

Italian Folk Music for Mandolin is an enjoyable collection of pieces from various parts of northern, central and southern Italy. This anthology includes complete texts and translations of the songs with accurate accompanying arrangements for two mandolins, or violin and guitar. The selections include medieval and Renaissance instrumental folk dances, sixteenth-century Neapolitan Villanelle, work songs, lullabies, narrative ballads, prisoner songs, and popular dances including tarantellas, pizzica, Sardinian ballo tondo, quadrille, waltz and saltarello. The book includes an accompanying CD of all the pieces presented.

Review:

Italian Folk Music for Mandolin is clearly a well executed labor of love: Love of Italian Folk Music, love of the Mandolin, and apparently love for those of us who enjoy playing the Mandolin. The selection is diverse, the recordings both pleasant to listen to and great for learning, the comments--both in terms of music and musicology--helpful for appreciating the music and how to approach playing it. I enjoyed John La Barbera's other great Mandolin book, Traditional Southern Italian Mandolin and Fiddle Tunes. The books are different from each other and both have provided hours of enjoyment. Eh, Giovanni, mille grazie.

It's hard to know what to say about Mel-Bay: sometimes they come out with pure junk other time's it's pure gold.

This one is gold: it's an anthology of authentic mandolin tunes from southern Italy, arranged alphabetically (not in order of difficulty). You've got the melody line and the TAB beneath that, complete with the names of accompanying chords. The melody line is not simply cheat-sheet style (one note): there are doublestops, triplestops, etc.

And the thing is clearly mandolin-literate, with many hammer-ons, pull-offs, etc. indicated. In fact

there's about 25 pages of very helpful advice at the beginning of the book on how to pull off some of these more advanced techniques. So this is definitely more than just an anthology of songs.

In short, it's a labor of love written by a man who knows his subject well.

What a great piece of work. The author really did a great job collecting all this music. The guitar chords are included with the mando tab which is nice if you want to play these tunes with a guitar player. The included cd is helpful to get a feel for the music. The tempo's range from slow to fast ,so beginners and advanced players have something to learn. I wanted to learn something more than bluegrass , and this was it.

Mandolin players of all levels who want to discover Sicilian and Southern Italian folk songs, both familiar (Cu Ti Lu Dissi) and rare (Antidotum Tarantulae, ca. 1673), will be rewarded by the time they invest in this beautifully researched book and CD. It comprises 36 pieces of authentic material, transcribed in both conventional notation and tabulature for mandolin. All of the pieces are included on the CD. Instructional material and explanatory notes are concise, well written and often surprising. For example, I was not aware that the tarantella exorcism ritual dates back to 2000 BC, or that the city of Taranto in Apuglia was named after the spiders that were prevalent there. You'll learn some enchanting songs that showcase the mandolin, techniques to play them with authority, and some fascinating history. This is a book that will pay you back generously for your study and practice time. Highly recommended!

Love this book! I play mandolin & violin and this is a great collection of songs! I bought it for a gig my little band and I performed. It really helps to practice with the CD to get the cadence, speed and personality.

These songs are not your typical Italian-American pieces. They have a very ethnic sound and each one has it's own character. I highly recommend it!