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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.

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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. :-)

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 hold 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.

I'm an upper intermediate player and have played classical music on my banjo before. I had high hopes for this book as it has a song or two that I had learned long ago but forgotten, and wanted to pick up again. First the good. The tab is high quality, uncluttered, with the numbers on the lines, proper note flagging, and even right hand thumb-middle-index indicators. This makes it easier for less experienced players and those who haven't done very much melodic picking. I think a beginner could slug his way through this. Now the bad. It's so uncluttered that the density is low; there is a lot of blank page. The part I really didn't like was the songs I bought this book for aren't complete. There are 3 pages of tab for Prelude to Partita #3 where there should be 14. I'm glad I discovered this before I put too much energy into learning from this book, as there would be adjustments to make if I wanted to learn the whole piece (from another book - no two people will tab it exactly the same). I haven't checked all the songs on this book to see if they have been truncated - too much work for something I'm going to toss. If you're interested in trying classical on your banjo this book may work for you. If you want to learn an entire classical piece, look elsewhere. Search for John Bullard.

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.

I have been very pleased with Bach For Banjo. Like many, I have spent most of my banjo playing to mostly bluegrass and similar types of music. This book has been a real blessing to me to help expand my banjo playing horizons. The author has created a work here that is easy to read and well made. I highly endorse this book for any intermediate to advanced banjo player. Might be a little much for beginners.

This music book presents a collection of classic Bach tunes that include both music notation that can be used with any instrument and tab written for the banjo. The tab is arranged for melodic style picking. I found this book to be a great resource for reinforcing my melodic playing ability.

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.

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