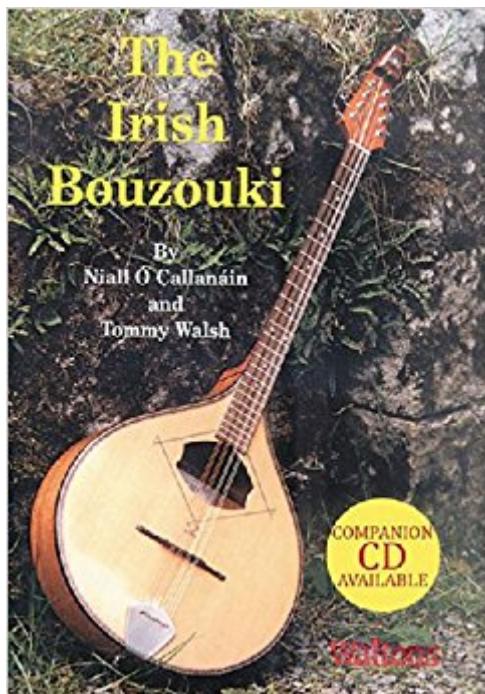


The book was found

The Irish Bouzouki (Book/CD Set)



Synopsis

(Waltons Irish Music Books). A 48-page book which provides plenty of tunes and easily understood instructions for playing the Irish bouzouki. The bouzouki, its origins, the history of the instrument, and the styles of its finest practitioners are analyzed. Since the bouzouki's introduction to Ireland it has developed a personality and an Irish identity all of its own. The instrument and its unique sound are now part and parcel of Irish music. With the help of this book, you can add a new dimension to traditional Irish music.

Book Information

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Waltons Irish Music (November 2000)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.2 x 11.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #909,903 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #171 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Mixed Collections #1054 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Strings #2120 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings

Customer Reviews

The book starts with a fairly thorough description, with many pictures and a few diagrams, of the parts, interior, and construction of the Irish-style bouzouki. It also mentions how the Irish bouzouki fits into the lute family and its Greek bouzouki origin. There are about two pages of pictures and instructions on how to hold the bouzouki, and a couple of pages about strumming and typical rhythms in Irish dance music. There are two pages on scales and the location of notes on a GDAD (G2 D3 A3 D4) and ADAD (A2 D3 A3 D4) tuned fretboards, and one and a quarter pages each of fingering diagrams for chords for GDAD and ADAD tunings. Other tunings, such as mandolin and upper-4 guitar tunings are mentioned, but no chord charts. Most of the book (more than twenty pages) is taken up with treble clef notated tunes with letter chords that match all but a couple of the 15 tracks of Irish music on the companion CD. (The notated tunes are listed below.) Two tunes, 'Bridget' and 'Brackagh Hill' have lyrics. The CD has two other tracks played on Greek tzouras and

tetrachordo bouzoukis which have no matching notation in the book. The tunes section has half-page photos and half-page blurb biographies of the bouzouki players from the CD. On the whole, the book seems to me like a quarter-version each of a chord-book and tune book (do the math). It would be appropriate as a book to for a first-time bouzouki buyer along with the instrument, just to get started. The chords and fingerings are only a basic set, adequate for the tunes notated in the book, and include no mention of sliding-pattern chords or chords where a course of strings is left out. The book will need to be supplemented with larger chord and fingering charts downloaded from enthusiasts' web pages, and with other tune books. Unfortunately, this is the only chord-book that I've found for Irish bouzouki on US, except for the Irish Bouzouki Chord Bible (Fretted Friends Series), which appears to be just what I want, but costs hundreds of dollars! On UK, you can get the same thing for about 20 pounds. GDAD Chord list (ADAD very nearly the same): A Maj, A min (2 versions), A7B min (2 versions) Bb Maj, Bb min C Maj, C open D open, D7E Maj, E min, E open F Maj G min, G open (2 versions) List of Notated Tunes: Brackagh Hill, Bridget Carolan's Draught, Connachtman's Rambles, Doctor Gilbert's Reel, Eamonn a'Chnoic, Fearghaill O'Gara's Reel, Gold Ring, Lads of Laois, Lucky in Love, Mist-Covered Mountain, Niamh's Capers, Paddy went to London, Return to Milltown, Rights of Man, Trip to Lerwick, Walsh's Hornpipe, Wise Maid, Woman I Never Forgot

There are very few pages in this book devoted to learning how to actually play the bouzouki and even those pages are very simplistic. The book mostly contains short biographies of bouzouki players and some tunes with chords written in standard musical notation rather than tab. Although the description refers to a CD and the book continually refers to a cassette, neither come with the book and there is no information that I can find in the book telling how to obtain the recording. There was really nothing in the book about the Irish bouzouki that I hadn't already found on the web during some quick searches making the price of the book way out of proportion to what I received.

Who ever wants to learn to play the bouzouki, don't buy this book!! It gives some nice information about history and artists, but that's stuff you can find anywhere on the net. It mainly deals with the gdad and adad tuning, not the gdae (mandolin) tuning. OK I can live with that. You can get a cassette tape with it (not even a cd!) but you discover that when you already received book. The music in it is staff music with chord names on top, No tab, no example strokes, you just have to figure it out all by yourself. Well why should I need this book then?

This book (and cassette) is made in a way so it fits both beginners and advanced bouzouki players. Most of the stuff is for Irish bouzouki but there's a part for Greek bouzouki aswell. Different styles from Andy Irvine and Alec Finn & Niall O'Callanain is shown. It's really a "enjoy and learn" book.

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