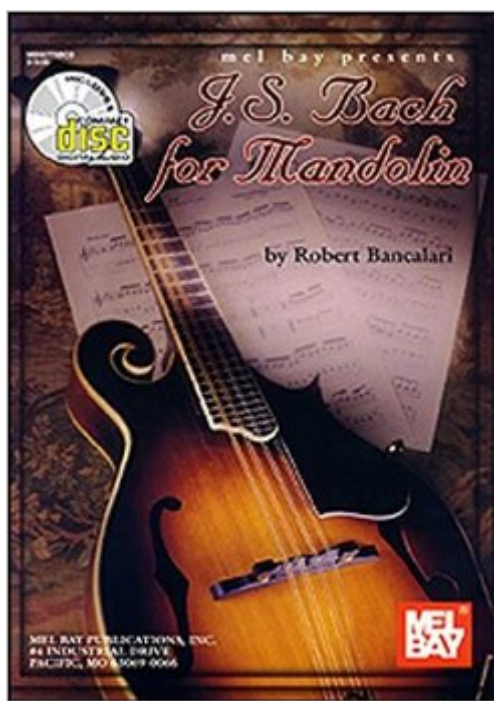


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Mel Bay J. S. Bach For Mandolin



Synopsis

These arrangements of many pieces by J.S. Bach make a great composer's works accessible to the mandolinist. Since the bulk of the music has been adapted from various suites, sonatas, and partitas, the authors provides an explanation of each dance form and other similar pieces. Includes: 'Bauree Angloise' from Partita in A Minor for solo flute; 'Marche' from Anna Magdalena Bach Book; 'Fantasie' from Partita No. 3 in A Minor; and more. In notation and tablature. Includes a CD which contains 13 of the 26 solos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Surprisingly disappointing considering the usual high standard of Mel Bay publications. Of the 26 pieces included only 13 are to be heard on the cd. There are few of the more well-known or popular pieces from the Bach canon. The tracks on the cd do not follow the page numbers in the book - for instance the first item in the book is track 12 on the cd. It would have been helpful if the pieces had been arranged from easiest to more difficult. There is nothing written to guide players who may be new to the music of Bach and certain effects such as trills can be heard but not really understood from the tab as there is no guide to the notation. This book could do with a complete revision.

I have rather enjoyed this book. While it does not present the material in a graded fashion, this is not required. All is self explanatory. As for the tracks not available on the included CD they are easily accessed practically anywhere. This is a very strong study in it's choice of pieces. The work is up to

you. The highlight of the entire book is the wonderful transcription of Ciaccaona. The author claims this piece is from "Sonata no. 4 in D minor" This can be misleading. This is from Partita No. 2 in D Minor for solo violin. Most Bach Heads will know this. I am much pleased to see the entire Suite III from the Cello Suites on board. It is readily available by great celloists for your listening pleasure here on . Anyone truly interested in Bach for mandolin should look for Schmuël Elbaz here on . He is an Israeli mandolinist with a CD of Sonatas and Partitas for solo Violin played on mandolin. Also look for Robert Bancalari's "Mandolin Classics" book. Very cool. "J. S. Bach for Mandolin" is not a book for beginners, but meant for those who wish to expand they're horizons.

A somewhat random hodgepodge of various Bach pieces transcribed for mandolin. Standard notation and TAB provided. There is no instructional material or explanation of technique specific to Bach/classical. No description of the music, barely even the correct titles for pieces. Definitely NOT for a beginner or anyone who hasn't played Bach before. The CD is only about 24 minutes long and only has about half the pieces (no idea why they didn't include more pieces)! Also the person playing it actually plays quite mechanically and though gets the notes right, is unable/unwilling to convey ANY emotion or feeling to some of these very moving pieces...almost robotic playing.

Nice collection of Bach tunes. These tunes bring a lot of satisfaction to the ear and fingers as they are pure genius. Bach sounds absolutely wonderful when played on the mandolin. Some of these tunes also sound great on an octave mandolin. I find myself playing some of these pieces over and over - they are extremely addictive. The tunes just flow. Bach's work is pure beauty. The book has a nice spiral binding so it lays flat against music stand - can't emphasize just how nice this is! The level of musicianship required is intermediate to advanced. I find it difficult to play some of these tunes up to tempo as the notes are jumping all over the fret board - hard to keep my eyes on the music when I'm moving from the 3rd fret to the 10th . Additionally, many of the tunes are riddled with accidentals - keep on your toes. I noticed a couple mistakes in the tab as compared to the music notation (wrong numbers and missing numbers) but only a couple. Many tunes require a page turn or 2 - this is impossible to do without stopping. You will either have to memorize the tune or copy a page so you can see everything. The CD is helpful. Not the best quality recording, but adequate. Robert Bancalari is obviously a very talented musician and mandolinist. Personally I don't think it's necessary to play all the tunes as fast as he does (on the CD). Only 13 of the 26 pieces are recorded on the CD. Overall: this is a great collection. Arranged and recorded by a very talented musician. I highly recommend it to anyone wanting to learn some Bach.

If you are just looking for something specific to the mandolin to play other than Bluegrass this book will provide it. On the plus side the book and notes are easy to read and it provides tab as well as notation for all songs. The songs seem to progress in difficulty as you go through the book, so the songs at the end are more difficult than the ones at the front. On the Down Side there is no indication why the author chose these particular songs out of Bach's entire repertoire to include in the book. Don't be surprised if you don't recognize any of the pieces in the book. Personally I would have preferred the book be spiral bound so it stays open when I am attempting to play directly from the book. Finally I really have to wonder why they chose to put the tracks on the CD in a different order than they are found in the book. The track names are all in CDDB so when you put it in iTunes you get the names of the songs, but it's still confusing. In summary this is a perfectly serviceable book for a novice to intermediate mandolin player to play through to help break out of the Bluegrass box, but the overall package is not particularly spectacular.

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