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# Mel Bay Ragtime , Blues & Jazz For Banjo



## Synopsis

If you are a banjo player whose enjoyment of music isn't limited to bluegrass and country, you'll find this collection of tunes fun and sometimes challenging. Contains ragtime, blues, old-time jazz, and bluegrass blues, G tuning. Banjo tab. \*\*For five-string banjo.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The banjo seems to have a reputation which relegates it into the backwoods, so to speak. Folk is where it belongs. And bluegrass. And country. Oh sure. Occasional forays have been mounted into other areas such as jazz and classical, but few people in contemporary American society recognize the versatility of the instrument and instead give credit to the performer more than to the instrument. A way to combat this? More banjo players could learn to play a wider range of musical styles. And that is where this book comes in. Fred Sokolow gives the reader a variety of early jazz, blues, and ragtime songs for the intermediate player with a smattering of history thrown in to remind them that the banjo has explored such styles in the past. Furthermore, these styles informed and influenced the original creators of bluegrass, so by learning them a performer who wishes to focus on bluegrass may bring new legs to old licks. I have only had this book for a few weeks and have mainly been focusing on the ragtime tunes of Scott Joplin. I have always thought that they would sound good on the banjo and was pleased to see that the arrangement of "The Entertainer" does the song justice. My only caveat is that I think that in at least one place the arrangement needlessly jumps over the fretboard. All in all though, a very good variety with interesting arrangements. While I

would not necessarily give this to a person who has never played banjo before, someone who has a basic familiarity with the instrument and how to fingerpick might enjoy this book.(Edit - 19 Sept, 2013) Since I wrote this review, I have explored even more of this book and found it immeasurably useful.

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