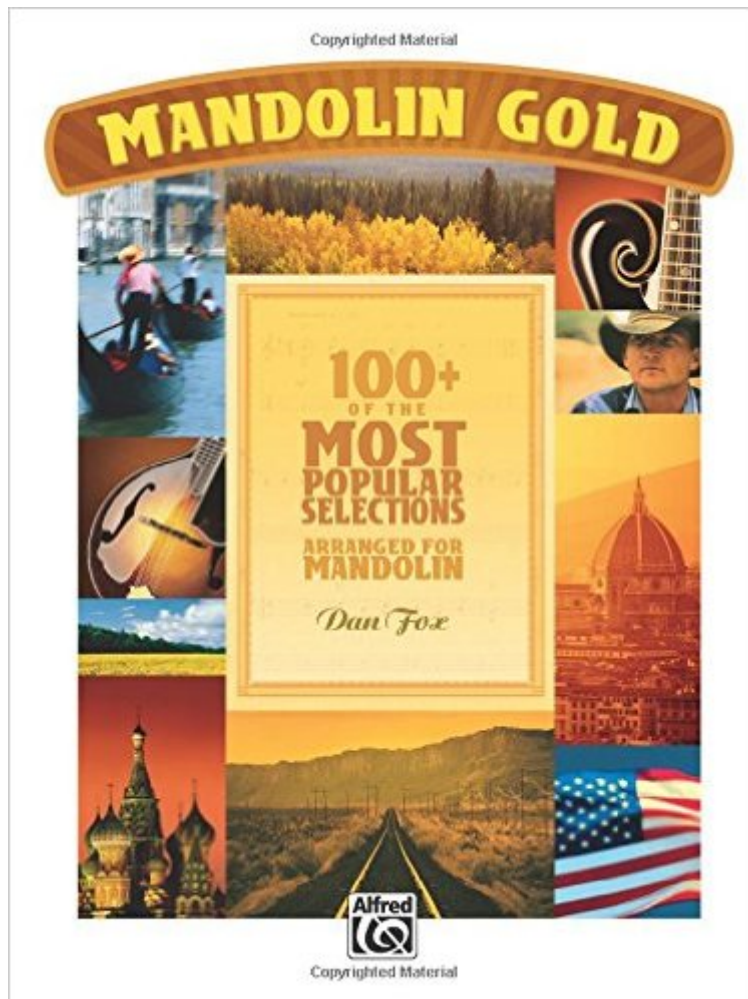


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Mandolin Gold: 100+ Of The Most Popular Selections



Synopsis

This wonderful collection of music for the mandolin includes bluegrass; old-time fiddle tunes; classical music (including the complete solo part for the Vivaldi mandolin concerto and the "Canzonetta" from Mozart's "Don Giovanni"); American, Irish, Jewish, Russian and Italian songs; reels; jigs; hornpipes; hymns and gospel songs; minstrel songs; patriotic; blues and jazz; children's songs; and cowboy and country ballads. This collection consists of over a hundred selections in standard music notation and TAB. Lyrics for singing and chord symbols for optional accompaniment is included. Also included are tremolo exercises, a guide to fingering, chord charts for guitar and mandolin, the history of the mandolin, and interesting comments about the history and performance of each song.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book as a beginning-to-intermediate Irish and bluegrass mandolinist, and it has been an excellent value. The description does not exaggerate the variety of styles included in this book. Bluegrass and folk songs are strongly represented, but I have gotten the most enjoyment from the Gypsy and Italian songs (Chitarra Romana, Funiculi-Funicula, Toselli's Serenade, etc.), which tend to be absent from more common "mandolin method" books. Arrangements vary in difficulty, from simple single note melodies (Amazing Grace), to greatly complex pieces (Chitarra Romana, Vivaldi's Concerto in C Major). Also included are interesting variations of more common tunes (a double-stopped and chorded version of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, with the original French lyrics, or

All Through the Night with pedal notes). Suggested fingerings are included in the more tricky sections (especially in tunes that venture beyond the first position). In addition to guitar chords written over the staff, explicit chords and double-stops are included in many of the pieces. Also included are brief backgrounds on most of the songs, as well as suggestions on style. I highly recommend this book for any beginner who wants to move past fiddle tunes or any intermediate player who wants some exposure to some new styles.

I love this book. I am teaching myself to play. The variety of styles and levels of difficulty in this book is unlike any other book I have found. I love it! As a beginner, I feel like there is enough that I can already do, but also plenty of challenge. There are helpful tips on the tricky bits and I love, particularly, the Jewish and Gypsy music which I haven't seen much of in other books. So, for motivation to keep learning, but also confidence that I have learned something, for songs all over the mandolin's range, and for the variety - I highly suggest this book. There are also 4 or 5 Christmas songs and 2 lullabies which saves me from buying separate music for those "needs" - the only times I plan on playing for others.

This is one of my first mandolin books. I got it when I had been playing a couple of weeks. It has many tunes that I had never heard, and many I have. The arrangements are easy, with easy double-stops, fun to play. I will probably outgrow it soon, but as I grow in mandolin, I will also grow in my ability to enhance simple arrangements more automatically. Nevertheless, it is a lovely and useful book, especially if your mandolin playing is fairly in the "new to intermediate" range.

This book is well worth the \$17.95 price but it is unfortunately overlooked in the vast selection of mandolin literature available these days. The song selection is impressive, it covers a wide range of music from all corners of the world. Each piece is accompanied by a short historical overview which helps place the song in its historical context. This is not a method book and therefore it will not cover the basics--holding the pick, finger placement, counting, time signatures etc. However it is an excellent supplement to any of the well written "how to methods" now available. What this book will really help the mandolinist accomplish is developing a sense of relative pitch on the instrument by playing "melodies" all over the fingerboard.

Although I've yet to tackle the songs in this book, there is such a wide range of music from traditional to bluegrass to classical, and all for the solo mandolin player, that I think I can find plenty

of songs to play for many years to come. Many songs also include an introductory paragraph about their origin, and tablature is included with each song. (I was surprised to learn that tablature goes back to the 15th century--see page 151.) There's no apparent rhyme or reason to the arrangement of the songs in the book (not in alphabetical order or my level of difficulty) so two indexes are included in the back, one by category and one in alphabetical order. There are many songs in this book that I have never heard of, so it's also a way for me to broaden my knowledge of music.

The Mandolin Gold book has quite a few titles that I did not have and that I really like. I like the arrangement and the chords used to enhance the melody. I just received it a couple of days ago, so have not studied it in depth. It is a size that is very easy to read.

... I find most of Fox's arrangements of these songs really unattractive. Some are nice and fleshed out with double stops and broken chords, while others are just a barebones melody line. The versions Fox presents of these melodies often vary slightly from the standard tunes we know, which would be fine except I really don't care for his variations. There seems to be no rhyme or reason to when Fox chooses an open string over a fretted 7th string, though they are used interchangeably within some tunes. This book is most useful as a guide to making your own versions of these old tunes. It's also good for a broad exposure to different genres of music. A beginner on mandolin will benefit greatly from the simplest arrangements and wide range of styles. I sincerely wish there were MP3 tracks to accompany the book arrangements so that I could better understand what I'm reading on the page, but I guess YouTube will do for now.

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