

For Fiddle And Mandolin: A Comprehensive Guide to the Enchanting Duo



John Hartford's Old-Time Fiddle Favorites: for Fiddle and Mandolin by Mary Bertun

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Origins and History

The fiddle and mandolin have a long and intertwined history, dating back centuries. Both instruments belong to the string family, with the fiddle being a bowed instrument and the mandolin a plucked instrument. They have their origins in different parts of the world, but their paths have crossed and influenced each other throughout history.

The fiddle is descended from the rebec, a medieval instrument that was brought to Europe by the Moors during the Middle Ages. The rebec had a pear-shaped body and three strings. Over time, the rebec evolved into the fiddle, which typically has four strings and a more rounded body.

The mandolin is believed to have originated in Italy in the 16th century. It is descended from the lute, a popular instrument during the Renaissance.

The early mandolin had a rounded body and four strings. Over time, the mandolin evolved into its modern form, with a teardrop-shaped body and eight strings.

The fiddle and mandolin were both popular instruments in folk music traditions around the world. They were used to accompany singing, dancing, and storytelling. In the 19th century, both instruments were brought to America by immigrants. They became an integral part of American folk music, including bluegrass, country, and old-time music.

Techniques

The fiddle and mandolin are both played with a variety of techniques. The fiddle is typically played with a bow, which is drawn across the strings to create sound. The mandolin is typically played with a pick, which is used to pluck the strings.

Both the fiddle and mandolin can be played in a variety of styles. The fiddle is often played with a fast, energetic bowing style. The mandolin is often played with a more delicate, lyrical picking style.

In addition to their basic techniques, the fiddle and mandolin can be played with a variety of special effects. These effects can be used to create a wide range of sounds, from percussive rhythms to ethereal melodies.

Repertoire

The fiddle and mandolin have a vast repertoire that spans centuries and genres. Both instruments are used in folk music, classical music, jazz, and rock music.

Some of the most famous pieces of music for fiddle and mandolin include:

- "Ashokan Farewell" by Jay Unger and Molly Mason
- "Bill Cheatham" by Bill Monroe
- "Cherokee Shuffle" by Doc Watson
- "Concerto for Mandolin and Orchestra" by Antonio Vivaldi
- "Flight of the Bumblebee" by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
- "Orange Blossom Special" by Ervin T. Rouse
- "Rocky Top" by Boudleaux and Felice Bryant
- "Scotland the Brave" by Traditional
- "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg
- "Turkey in the Straw" by Traditional

This is just a small sampling of the vast repertoire that is available for fiddle and mandolin. Both instruments are capable of producing a wide range of sounds and styles, making them a versatile and expressive duo.

The Bond Between Fiddle and Mandolin

The fiddle and mandolin are a natural pair. They complement each other in both sound and style. The fiddle's bright, energetic sound blends perfectly with the mandolin's warm, mellow sound. Together, they create a rich, full sound that is both captivating and evocative.

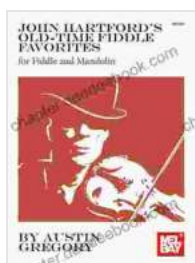
The fiddle and mandolin are also a popular choice for duets. Their contrasting sounds and styles create a unique and interesting musical experience. Many famous fiddle and mandolin duos have emerged over the years, including:

- Bill Monroe and Earl Scruggs
- David Grisman and Tony Rice
- Mark O'Connor and Yo-Yo Ma
- Sam Bush and Béla Fleck
- Alison Brown and Sarah Jarosz

These are just a few of the many fiddle and mandolin duos that have delighted audiences around the world. Their music is a testament to the enduring power and beauty of this classic duo.

The fiddle and mandolin are two of the most popular and versatile instruments in the world. They have a long and rich history, and they have been used in a wide variety of musical genres. Their unique sounds and styles make them a perfect pair, and they have been used to create some of the most memorable music in history.

Whether you are a fan of folk music, classical music, jazz, or rock music, there is sure to be a fiddle and mandolin duo that you will enjoy. These two instruments have a special bond that creates a truly enchanting musical experience.



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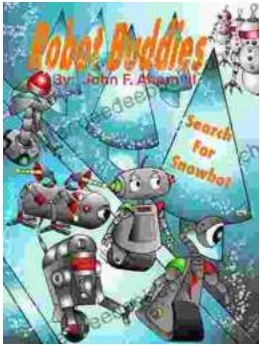
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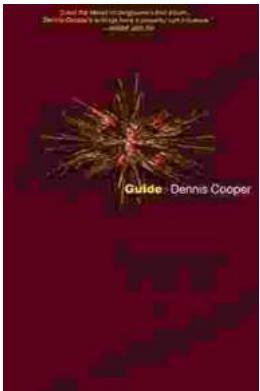
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