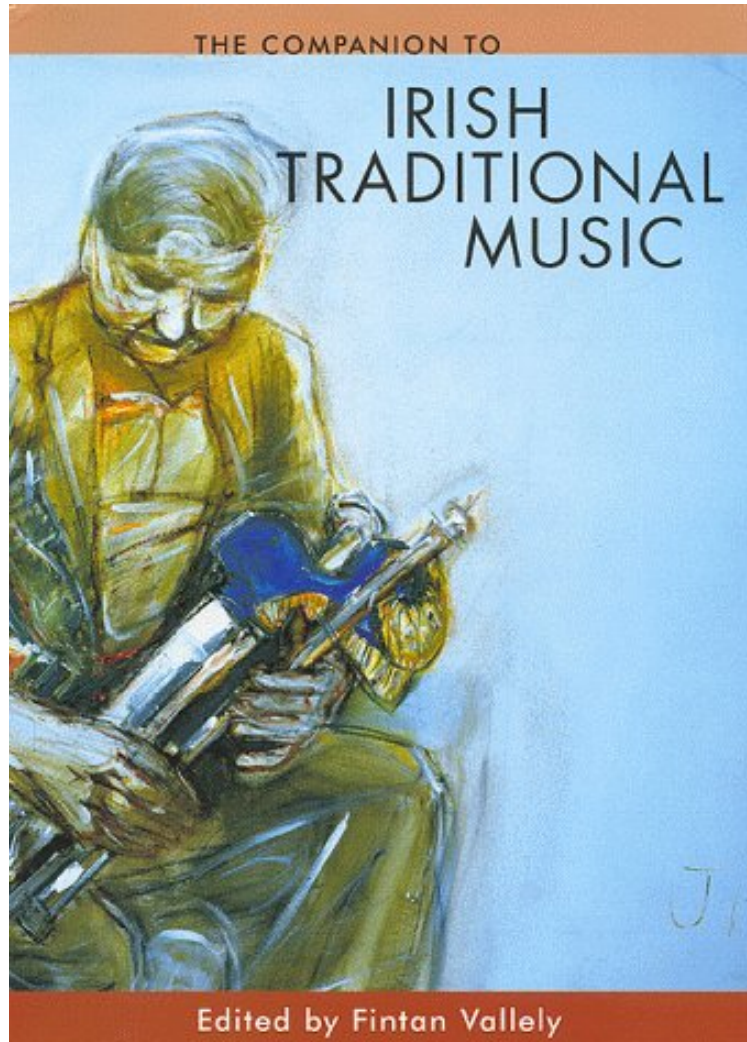


(Free) The Companion to Irish Traditional Music

The Companion to Irish Traditional Music

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From Brand: NYU Press : The Companion to Irish Traditional Music before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Companion to Irish Traditional Music:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. References and Resources Are InvaluableBy Adam SweetAs a student of ancient music, I find this reference manual a helpful addition to my library. Although it is primarily an encyclopedia, I find that the references in back are more valuable than the actual text of the tome itself. That's because this is the first time I've been able to find a list of references and resources specific to my studies are compiled in one place.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! The best book on Irish traditional music!By Nigel C. BensonNo other book comes close to providing the breadth and depth of information about Irish traditional music.The A-Z format is ideal for covering the subject matter, making it quick to look topics up and cross-reference

them. I have found no important topics missed out in this truly encyclopedic work. And like other good encyclopedias, it is hard to put down once you start looking things up because one topic leads to another - and so on. The book is well written and easy to read. At the same time it contains important details such as the musical tempos and modes that are characteristic of different types of Irish tunes - reels, jigs, hornpipes, etc. This is especially useful for those who actually want to learn to play Irish music as well as listen to it with greater understanding. (Most books claiming to explain Irish music actually miss out the musical details altogether and take the easy option of just rehashing the familiar historical stuff.) There are also many examples of tunes provided in conventional musical notation. Key biographies are included of important and influential musicians - past (e.g. Michael Coleman) and present (e.g. Jackie Daly) - including their major recordings. This would also be very handy for anyone wanting to build a worthwhile CD collection as well as looking out for live performances of exceptional artists. Details of all the main instruments used in Irish music are given, i.e. accordions, concertinas, fiddles, flutes, pipes and whistles. The editor and writer Fintan Vallely clearly knows his subject extremely well and he has chosen other true experts for their valuable contributions. (This contrasts with certain other books that claim to be written by experts who really don't know what they're talking about.) I have personally found this book essential reading and I am extremely grateful to Fintan Vallely for providing so much good quality information in one volume. (In case anyone should be thinking, "Is 'The Companion to Irish Traditional Music' in any way too expensive?", then the answer is simply this: this book provides so much it is actually very good value for money - you could easily waste a lot by buying several other books that don't give you anything like the information you need and that furthermore seriously mislead you about the subject.) If you want a genuinely complete guide to Irish traditional music then this is it. I recommend it highly. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. nothing else compares By Doc Dave This is a really great reference for people who love Irish traditional music, and I am unaware of any other available source that offers so much information. It is admirable in that the coverage is so very broad, and many times there is in-depth information, but I must admit that I would have liked to see more on many of the topics. The topics are arranged alphabetically, which makes it seem a bit like a dictionary. While this is not necessarily a bad thing (easy to find what you're looking for), I prefer the continuous reading style of some other books. The competition generally comes up short on both amount and depth of coverage though. Also it would be unfair for me to give this less than 5 stars when it is designed to be a good reference rather than something to read with continuity from cover to cover. As a reference for Irish traditional music, I know of none better.

The Companion to Irish Traditional Music represents a landmark in the study of one of the Western world's most universally recognizable forms of cultural expression. This ambitious volume comes at a time when Irish music and culture is experiencing a genuine renaissance, as evidenced by the popularity of such phenomena as Riverdance. Only a handful of books have attempted to present an overall picture of Irish traditional music, and many of these are now outdated or out of print. Since the late 1960s, the traditional music scene has changed radically: the commercial life of traditional music has mushroomed, bringing with it tremendous growth in what might be called music tourism. At the same time, an energetic revivalism has taken hold, the result of a wealth of new approaches to playing and spirited debate over the influence of traditionalism in Irish music. Fintan Vallely has harnessed the expertise of dozens of specialists who between them present a remarkably comprehensive picture of the field, incorporating ancient history, past ideals, and contemporary ideologies. The companion presents A-Z descriptions of individuals, traditions, and instruments, as well as an analysis of the modern history of traditional music-making. Biographical entries cover significant musicians and composers and central themes; central themes within traditional music, such as the oral tradition, the Bardic system, and the politics of Irish music, are given extended entries. Not just the ideal reference for the interested enthusiast, The Companion to Irish Traditional Music provides a unique resource for every home, school, or library with an interest in the distinctive rituals, qualities, and history of Irish traditional music and song.

From Library Journal Musician and musicologist Vallely and 110 other contributors from all over the world offer a rich assortment of facts and analyses regarding traditional Irish music and dance. The research spans history from the Bronze Age to the present, but the emphasis is on 20th-century people and practices. The A-to-Z arrangement of entries, which vary in length from a few words to 15 pages, also features black-and-white photographs, a few diagrams and maps, music samples, a chronology of important events in the development of Irish music, a bibliography of music collections and texts, and a discography of music and dance recorded on audio- and videotape. Most helpful are the concise, informative biographical entries and the lengthy pieces on instruments and playing styles, although some presume a familiarity with their subjects that few Americans have. Unfortunately, in an effort to cover anything and everything related to Irish music, the editor burdens the book with general statements on topics such as "gender" and "Irish bars" or universally used musical terms such as "triplet," detracting from the unique and valuable information it does provide. Recommended for academic libraries with large music collections. A Vivian Reed, Long Beach P.L., CA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author An accomplished musician and music writer, Fintan Vallely lectures on Irish music and ethnomusicology at Maynooth College and is a regular reviewer and commentator

for The Irish Times and numerous other papers.