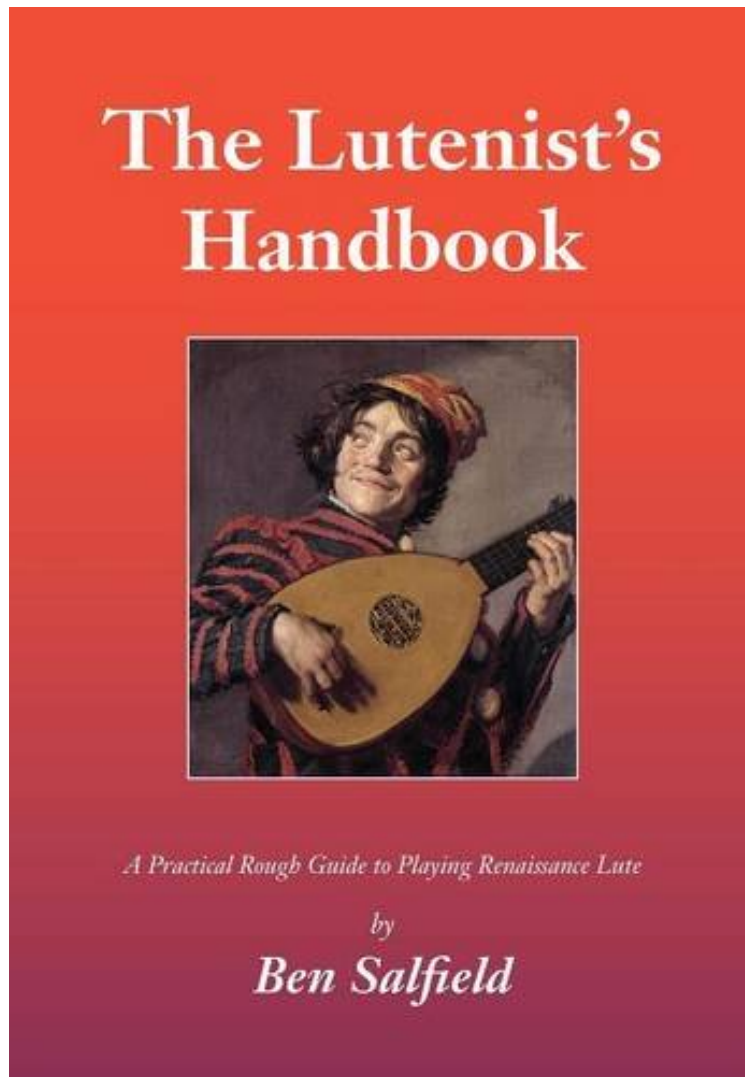


The Lutenist's Handbook

Ben Salfield

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Ben Salfield : The Lutenist's Handbook before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lutenist's Handbook:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A great resource!By Corinne MckayI'm a beginner lutenist (started about two and a half years ago from absolute zero!). I definitely wish this book had been in print when I first started playing, but I'm also learning a lot from reading it now. The book starts from the very basics, such as how to hold the lute (something I had no idea how to do) and the pros and cons of various playing positions such as footstool versus crossed leg versus strap, thumb under versus thumb out, etc. This would be particularly helpful for people who are learning on their own or with lessons over Skype instead of in person. One section that I found particularly helpful was

the information on how to practice and how much to practice, and the importance of warming up and doing exercises. Great stuff! My only suggestion for improvement would be to include more photos: for example for a really beginning lutenist, it would be helpful to see a photo of how to tie a fret knot, how to replace a string, what thumb under position looks like as opposed to thumb out, etc. More photos would be a great addition to the book, but in any case I highly recommend it for any lute learner. Here in the US the early music community is energetic but relatively small, and there are lots of people learning, or trying to learn, to play the lute with very little in-person instruction. I've been lucky enough to find a fantastic teacher and a small ensemble, but that's pretty rare outside of major early music communities in the US, so I think this book is a much-needed resource!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **WONDERFUL GUIDE FOR WOULD-BE LUTENISTS** By SA wonderful little volume packed with valuable tips and basic information for beginners/intermediates learning the lute.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **This Lutenist's Handbook is a must have** By Customer If you want to learn more about lute playing, than *The Lutenist's Handbook* by Ben Salfield is a must have. It is easy to read and Ben Salfield gives information about different aspects of the lute instrument, and how to handle it. He starts at the beginning and he leads you through many aspect and gives you the tools to become a better lutenist. You will also find some pros and cons from Bens perspective which gives the handbook a personal touch. Different exercises, bringing your playing to a higher level, are found at the end of the book. He even gives some advice for the more experienced and the performing player. For me this handbook proofed to be very useful.