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Mel Bay Chromatic Harmonica Solos



Synopsis

A wonderful collection of favorite folk and classic themes are artistically arranged for chromatic harmonica solo in this book/CD package. All songs on the CD are split-track for play-along. Selected songs are recorded. Each song is labeled with what harmonica was used. Some tunes are with piano and some are full orchestrations. Either the 12 or 16 hole chromatic harmonica may be used. CD contains only 28 of the 57 songs that are in the book.

Book Information

Sheet music: 76 pages

Publisher: Mel Bay Publications, Inc. (August 31, 1996)

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.2 x 11 inches

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Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The CD that was provided to help learn the tunes was so bad that all you could hear was the accompaniment and not the harmonica. The music in the book was ok. However some of the tunes would be very hard to play. I could not recommend this book.

This is a well-designed approach to harmonica music. You get both regular music notation along with an enhanced tabbing below the music staves that also gives duration information. For music needing a chromatic shift, the tabs signal that. Above the regular notation there are letters (i.e. C7) showing chording if you have someone play guitar for accompaniment. There is an introduction section that walks a new-comer through how to read both standard and tab notation in relation to a harmonica. The music is written for 12 or 16 hole chromatics. There are 57 selections of written music, and the accompanying CD has 28 pieces. Not all CD pieces are in the written music, so to learn them you will just have to play along. The music and type is large enough to easily read back

from a music stand. There is a full range of complexity from fairly simple to fast and tough. The selections include well-known pieces like Finlandia, Greensleeves and Blue Danube, to classical pieces not easily recognized (at least by me). Most of the music would be well recognized by an informed audience.

I've played chromatic harmonica by ear for decades and thought this book would help me to learn to play the sharps and flats on my chromatic harmonicas. But I conclude that I can learn to play the sharps and flats by ear, and I can do so in the key I choose. For example, the book writes Greensleeves in the key of E minor. I like to play it in the key of A minor, the way it is written on other sheet music that I have. That is also the key I, a tenor, can sing Greensleeves in. Nevertheless this book may be of some use since it has pieces in it that I do not have anywhere else.

The selection of songs tries to "cover the waterfront". There are too many songs which do not match my music interests. I have no interest in "Hungarian Rhapsody No.2" or "Menuet No. 2". I like harmonica "campfire solos". Separate solo books targeting particular categories of interest would be better. I ordered the book because it was advertised on the web page for the chromatic harmonica I bought (from) in the same time frame. The harmonica is 5-star, but not the solo book.

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