

Baker Double Dozen Of Delightful Dulcimer Tunes: A Comprehensive Guide

The Baker Double Dozen Of Delightful Dulcimer Tunes is a renowned collection of 24 dulcimer tunes compiled by master musician and teacher Ralph Lee Baker. Published in 1974, this collection has become an indispensable resource for dulcimer players of all levels, from beginners to advanced enthusiasts.

In this comprehensive guide, we will delve into the history, significance, and intricate details of each tune in the Baker Double Dozen. Whether you are a seasoned dulcimerist or just starting your musical journey, this guide will provide valuable insights, background information, and practical tips to enhance your playing and appreciation of these timeless melodies.

Ralph Lee Baker, a renowned dulcimer maker and musician, was inspired to create the Baker Double Dozen as a way to preserve and share a diverse repertoire of dulcimer tunes. He carefully selected 24 tunes from various sources, including traditional folk melodies, original compositions, and arrangements of classical pieces.



A Baker's Double Dozen of Delightful Dulcimer Tunes

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The collection was first published in 1974 and quickly gained popularity among dulcimer players. Baker's meticulous attention to detail, clear notation, and insightful commentary have made the Baker Double Dozen an invaluable resource for dulcimer enthusiasts worldwide.

The Baker Double Dozen Of Delightful Dulcimer Tunes includes a wide range of melodies, encompassing traditional folk tunes, original compositions, and arrangements of classical pieces. Each tune has its own unique character, offering a diverse musical landscape for exploration.

A traditional fiddle tune, Blackberry Blossom is a lively and cheerful melody that showcases the dulcimer's rhythmic possibilities.

Another traditional folk tune, Shady Grove is a haunting and beautiful ballad that evokes images of rolling hills and lush forests.

A composition by Ralph Lee Baker, Over the Waterfall is a flowing and expressive melody that captures the essence of the natural world.

A well-known folk tune, Arkansas Traveler is a playful and humorous melody that has been passed down through generations.

A traditional fiddle tune, Soldier's Joy is a lively and energetic melody that reflects the spirit of camaraderie and resilience.

A traditional folk song, Sally Goodin is a charming and heartfelt ballad that tells the tale of a young woman's unrequited love.

A traditional Scottish folk song, *The Girl I Left Behind Me* is a poignant and nostalgic melody that speaks to the pain of separation.

A traditional fiddle tune, *Cripple Creek* is a lively and rhythmic melody that has become a popular bluegrass standard.

A traditional folk song, *John Henry* tells the legendary tale of a railroad worker who dies in a contest with a steam drill.

A traditional folk song, *Old Joe Clark* is a humorous and light-hearted melody that captures the spirit of the American frontier.

A composition by Ralph Lee Baker, *Angeline the Baker* is a joyful and energetic melody that celebrates the art of baking.

A traditional folk tune, *Chinky Pin Polka* is a lively and playful melody that showcases the dulcimer's rhythmic capabilities.

A traditional Irish folk tune, *Fisher's Hornpipe* is a lively and energetic melody that has become a popular dance tune.

A traditional English folk song, *The Golden Vanity* is a haunting and atmospheric ballad that tells the tale of a ship lost at sea.

A traditional English folk song, *Greensleeves* is a beautiful and haunting melody that has been adapted for various instruments and arrangements.

A traditional English folk song, *Scarborough Fair* is a haunting and enigmatic melody that has been popularized by modern folk revivalists.

A traditional American folk song, Shenandoah is a beautiful and evocative melody that celebrates the beauty of the Shenandoah River.

A traditional American folk song, Wildwood Flower is a gentle and heartwarming melody that evokes images of blooming wildflowers.

A popular American baseball song, Take Me Out to the Ball Game is a lively and energetic melody that has become a staple of sporting events.

A traditional American folk song, Aura Lee is a beautiful and romantic melody that has been popularized by various singers and musicians.

A traditional Christian hymn, Amazing Grace is a powerful and uplifting melody that has been widely adapted and performed.

A traditional American folk song, House of the Rising Sun is a haunting and evocative melody that has been popularized by modern folk revivalists.

A traditional American folk song, Home on the Range is a beautiful and nostalgic melody that celebrates the American West.

A composition by Ralph Lee Baker, Bill Cheatum is a lively and humorous melody that showcases the dulcimer's rhythmic capabilities.

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced dulcimer player, the Baker Double Dozen Of Delightful Dulcimer Tunes offers a丰富的素材 for musical exploration. Here are some tips to enhance your playing and enjoyment of these timeless melodies:

- **Choose the right dulcimer.** The Baker Double Dozen is written for a standard diatonic dulcimer with three strings. If you do not have a dulcimer, consider renting or purchasing one that is well-suited for your skill level.
- **Learn the basic techniques.** Before attempting to play the Baker Double Dozen, it is essential to master the basic techniques of dulcimer playing, such as fretting, strumming, and damping.
- **Start with the easier tunes.** The Baker Double Dozen includes tunes of varying difficulty. Start with the easier tunes and gradually work your way up to the more challenging ones.
- **Use a metronome.** A metronome can help you maintain a steady tempo and improve your rhythm.
- **Listen to recordings.** There are many recordings of the Baker Double Dozen available online and in libraries. Listening to these recordings can provide valuable insights and inspiration.
- **Be patient.** Learning to play the Baker Double Dozen takes time and practice. Be patient with yourself and enjoy the journey of musical discovery.

The Baker Double Dozen Of Delightful Dulcimer Tunes is an essential collection for dulcimer players of all levels. Ralph Lee Baker's meticulous attention to detail, clear notation, and insightful commentary have made this book an invaluable resource for preserving and sharing the joy of dulcimer music.

Whether you are just starting your musical journey or are a seasoned dulcimerist, the Baker Double Dozen offers a wealth of melodies to explore

and enjoy. By following the tips and insights provided in this guide, you can enhance your playing, deepen your appreciation of these timeless tunes, and experience the full delights of dulcimer music.



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