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O'Brien Pocket History Of Irish Traditional Music (Pocket History Series)



Synopsis

The history of Irish traditional music, song and dance from the mythological harp of the Dagda right up to Riverdance. Exploring an abundant spectrum of historical sources, music and folklore, this guide uncovers the contribution of the Normans to Irish dancing, the role of the music maker in Penal Ireland, as well as the popularity of dance tunes and set dancing from the end of the 18th century. It also follows the music of the Irish diaspora from as far apart as Newfoundland and the music halls of vaudeville to the musical tapestry of Irish America today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Better than I expected. The first half of the book does an excellent job of pulling together the impact of historical events upon the development of the music. The second half of the book focuses on the last fifty years or so. The author even explains the background of a few familiar tunes. There's a short but informative profile of Carolan. A very useful book.

It was everything I needed!

Great treatment of one of my favorite subjects. It would have been nice to spell a lot of the Irish names phonetically, though.

This was an excellent overview of Irish history and the music that accompanied it. Stretching back into the middle age up to the turn of the millenia.

This serves as a great introduction - not too large but plenty in it - to traditional Irish music. After an evening in a pub in the west of Ireland we picked this up in the airport shops on the way homeward. Highly recommended for musicians and certainly for fans of Irish and 'Celtic' music and culture.

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It lacks an index, but helpful headings on almost every page help you find sections. Really "covers the map" including topics such as Irish Traditional Music in Quebec or The Scots-Irish in the Appalachians. It profiles important musicians in the history of Irish music, but I wanted more details on the recent (1970s-2000) artists. The list of traditional music organizations, glossary, discography and note on session etiquette were useful. Good for getting the basic background on Irish music, but I recommend taking a look at Far from the Shamrock Shore for a more emotional, yet historical look at the same topic.

I have been interested in Irish music for so long but never found a book that really covered the music in any kind of context. This is a brilliant handy little book which I have often used as an affordable gift. It covers all the historical bases as well as the modern groups and performers. Highly recommended!

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