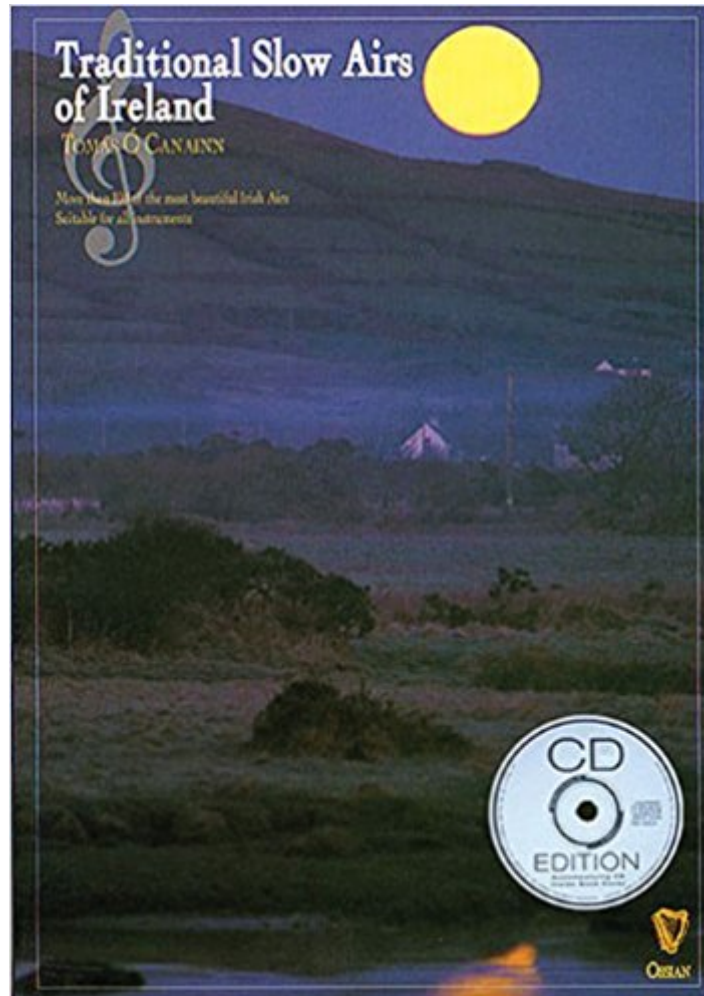




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Traditional Slow Airs Of Ireland (Music Sales America)



Synopsis

(Music Sales America). This book is a major collection of traditional Irish slow airs that captures the essence and beauty of Irish traditional music. Included in the 118 airs that make up this fabulous compilation, are some of the great sean-nos (old style) airs as well as tunes by Caloran and other favorite and well-known pieces. Author Tomas O'Canainn has a lifetime of experience both performing and teaching Irish music and his selection of beautiful, soaring and majestic slow airs is ideal for extending your repertoire for any melody instrument. These relatively easy pieces are also suitable for those approaching Irish slow airs for the first time. 2 CDs are available, presenting every tune in the book played by the author and an ensemble of expert traditional musicians so you can hear how the pieces should sound.

Book Information

Paperback: 104 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 1900428628

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.3 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Nice tunes, well played and recorded on the accompanying 2CDs. The tunes are variously played on pipes, whistles, fiddle, accordion, piano, reed and fretted instruments. They are all in the keys of G or D, so accessible to 'standard' D whistle! I don't understand the reviews (which are on the 'no CD' edition page) that say there is no ornamentation, in the notation or on the CDs. Some tunes have more than others, but they seem to have some, particularly the ones that are piped. The ornaments are written into the notation as 'standard' notes, rather than miniature grace notes, which would be more convenient for reading, but probably less convenient for print production/editing. There are phrase markings which help with interpretation. The introduction correctly points out that

phrasing and ornamentation are up to the individual player, so I don't understand complaints that 'there is little room for variation' in the given orthography, whether you consider it ornamented or not. I disagree with those who recommend buying the edition without the CDs, unless you are a very adept sight reader. I find the recorded tracks essential, (and intrinsically enjoyable) having been reading notation on several instruments for many years, although not a speed reader. I'm very glad I decided to buy the CD version. I'm not one of those folks who say you "must learn by ear, forget notation". I think both are useful, but listening is the final confirmation of reading, for me. There are 118 tunes listed in the Contents, referred to page numbers 11-100 in the book, with no reference to the CD tracks. The 2 accompanying CDs are each numbered 1-61 tracks each including the first song, which is vocal on each CD, and NOT included in the Contents 1-118. The CD contents are listed by the above CD track numbers on the front and back inside book covers, with page references for each instrumental tune.... Better not lose them, because obviously the Contents numbers in the book do not match the tune numbers of the CDs. The book is "perfect bound" which means everything is just glued together. They could have added CD track numbers to the 3 Contents pages for the CD edition.... but they printed a different wraparound front/back cover instead. I suppose this was a result of trying to save money on producing "2" editions one with, and one without CDs. There aren't many good books of just airs, let alone slow airs. We should be grateful for this one, even with the minor inconvenience.

The CD tracks were great, but the addition of one initial track put the tunes out of sync with the list in the book.

Plenty of subject matter for learning Irish airs

Great product! Highly recommend.

Not what I expected. Features singing and accompaniment of the slow airs. Whistle is supposed to accompany the "session".

I have owned this book for years (mine came with cassette tapes, not CDs!) and originally learned these airs on whistle and flute. I started playing the Celtic harp three years ago and have just begun arranging some of these lovely airs for that instrument, for which they are ideally adapted. It is a wonderful resource for material that is not widely available in other collections of Irish music, which

as other reviewers have mentioned tend to focus on reels, jigs, and hornpipes. O'Canainn is a piper, and these airs are written out exactly as he would play them, with authentic ornamentation. For that reason alone the book is a gem, for anyone who's trying to learn where and how to decorate Irish music in the traditional style.

While it doesn't have ALL the slow airs ever written and some of them aren't that "slow", this is an awesome compendium of airs. Written key signatures are all consistent with traditional Irish instruments (I play flute and whistle), with most in D, G, or A. The CD is nice, too!

Good book, although I find I can't play straight through it because there are only so many slow songs one can play in sequence. Haven't tried the CD yet.

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