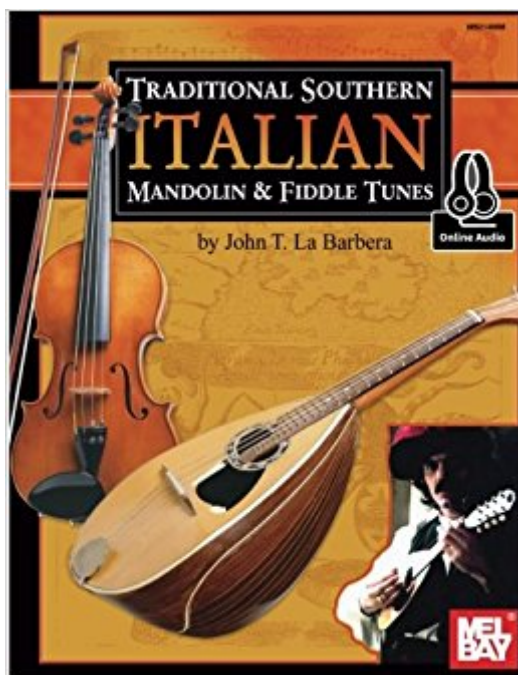


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# Traditional Southern Italian Mandolin & Fiddle Tunes



## Synopsis

The first and foremost Italian mandolin book dedicated to the traditional music from Southern Italy. Written in standard notation and mandolin tablature with guitar and mandolin chord accompaniment, this book introduces the reader to the various authentic folk songs from the regions of Campagna, Calabria, Puglia, Sicily and Sardinia. With detailed descriptions of the songs and dances, historical and technical information about tarantella and pizzica music, the book will increase the knowledge and repertoire of Italian folk music for both beginners and professional musicians alike. The book provides an excellent foundation needed to play in the style of the music. With preparatory technical studies, the student will learn the Italian style of tremolo, picking, and rhythms that accentuate the music. Together with the accompanying audio, the student will be able to play along and follow the precise nuances that distinguish the music. Audio download available online.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For more than three decades, guitarist, mandolinist, and composer arranger, John T. La Barbera, has enchanted audiences throughout the United States, Europe and South America. He was awarded for the extraordinary role of the transmission and translation of Italian oral traditions from The Italian Oral History Institute in 2005 and recognized as one of the first transcribers of Southern Italian folk music in America. Immediately after graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree in classical guitar from the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut, he was awarded a

scholarship to continue graduate studies in Siena and Florence, Italy. It was in Florence during the 1970's where John launched his professional career. It was his selection as full time guitarist and arranger for the music and theater company Pupi e Fresedde, that honored his virtuosity and brought him acclaim in Italy and the rest of Europe. During these years, the group left an indelible mark and vast contribution to folk music in Italy. It was also when he started to transcribe a huge repertoire that had been passed down by oral tradition. Upon his return to the U.S., he brought back his experience and own transcriptions of this music to form I Giullari di Piazza, in New York City in 1979. As a composer, La Barbera has won several awards and commissions. From The Jerome Foundation he was commissioned to write a work for the ETHOS Percussion ensemble, The Marimba Suite for percussion, which premiered in 2001 and released on their CD Sol Tunnels; in 1996 by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, The Martin Gruss Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts in New York, to compose The Dance of the Ancient Spider, which premiered at Alice Tully Hall; Funding from the New York State Council on the Arts and meet the Composer; commissioned by the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City to compose Stabat Mater-Donna Di Paradiso; numerous composer awards from ASCAP and finalist in the John Lennon Songwriting Competition. Because of his expertise in Italian traditional music, LaBarbera has been a valuable resource for both film and theater directors. His film scores often include mandolin as the principal instrument, as in the Acadamey Award Nominated feature documentary: Children of Fate, (1992), Sacco and Vanzetti (2007); Pane Amaro (2007); and La Festa (1996) and Tarantella (1994). Other films include: What's up Scarlet (2005) and Cuore Napolitano (2000). In Theater, his expertise as composer, arranger and musical director was valuable in the off-Broadway productions of Souls of Naples, 2003, (Theater for a New Audience) starring John Turturro (Miller's Crossing, Barton Fink) and the stage adaptation of Sicilian playwright Luigi Pirandello's short stories in Kaos, 2006 (New York Theater Workshop) directed by Marta Clarke. Composer of original Folk Operas: Stabat Mater: Donna di Paradiso 1995 The Voyage of the Black Madonna 1990 The Dance of the Ancient Spider 1996 La Cantata dei Pastori La Lupa- the She-Wolf 1987 The Adventures of Don Giovanni and His Servant Pulcinella 1987 As founder and musical director of I Giullari di Piazza since 1979, together with singer/percussionist Alessandra Belloni, the group has presented legendary folk operas and hypnotic music and dramatic stories to the delight of audiences around the US. They are also artists in residence at the New York City's Cathedral of St. John the Divine at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, in Katonah, New York. La Barbera performs regularly in concert halls around the world including: the Montreal Jazz Festival, Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, Lincoln Center, UCLA, the San Francisco World Music Festival, the World Music Institute,

and throughout Brazil. He holds a B.M. from the Hartt School of Music, (Univ.of Hartford), with graduate c --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's hard to know what to say about Mel-Bay: sometimes they come out with pure junk (e.g., Ã Â Mel Bay Fun with the Mandolin), other time's it's pure gold. This one is gold: it's an anthology of authentic mandolin tunes from southern Italy, arranged alphabetically (not in order of difficulty). You've got the melody line and the TAB beneath that, complete with the names of accompanying chords. The melody line is not simply cheat-sheet style (one note): there are doublestops, triplestops, etc. And the thing is clearly mandolin-literate, with many hammer-ons, pull-offs, etc. indicated. In fact there's about 25 pages of very helpful advice at the beginning of the book on how to pull off some of these more advanced techniques. So this is definitely more than just an anthology of songs. In short, it's a labor of love written by a man who knows his subject well. The only complaint I have -- and the reason I give it four stars -- is the CD that comes with it. The CD sounds nice, but that's hardly what you're interested in. You want a CD where the melody is on one track and the accompaniment on the other, so that you can listen carefully to what's on the page, and then, when you play it yourself, turn that down and have the accompaniment only playing with you. No such luck: both L and R feature the full melody and accompaniment, so they cannot be separated for learning purposes. The pieces are of intermediate difficulty.

The book is fine in paperback format don't buy it on your kindle you're just going to end up transferring it to paper. You can't turn it sideways to get the landscape view which is pointless. The songs are simple and fun to play if you can read them.

What a great piece of work. The author really did a great job collecting all this music. The guitar chords are included with the mando tab which is nice if you want to play these tunes with a guitar player. The included cd is helpful to get a feel for the music. The tempo's range from slow to fast ,so beginners and advanced players have something to learn. I wanted to learn something more than bluegrass , and this was it.

These pieces of music are beautiful and thankfully I have someone to play them with me. I think without having someone to play the chords they would be a little boring. but they are still nice melodies and while somewhat simple, the timing and musicality lend a difficulty level that I really appreciated.

Songs are good, and the mandolin on the audio is good too. Sonically, Carlo Aonzo's book and CD are a little more inspiring, but this is solid, pick it up.

Great history of mandolins.

Mandolin players of all levels who want to discover Sicilian and Southern Italian folk songs, both familiar (Cu Ti Lu Dissi) and rare (Antidotum Tarantulae, ca. 1673), will be rewarded by the time they invest in this beautifully researched book and CD. It comprises 36 pieces of authentic material, transcribed in both conventional notation and tabulature for mandolin. All of the pieces are included on the CD. Instructional material and explanatory notes are concise, well written and often surprising. For example, I was not aware that the tarantella exorcism ritual dates back to 2000 BC, or that the city of Taranto in Apuglia was named after the spiders that were prevalent there. You'll learn some enchanting songs that showcase the mandolin, techniques to play them with authority, and some fascinating history. This is a book that will pay you back generously for your study and practice time. Highly recommended!

Love this book! I play mandolin & violin and this is a great collection of songs! I bought it for a gig my little band and I performed. It really helps to practice with the CD to get the cadence, speed and personality. These songs are not your typical Italian-American pieces. They have a very ethnic sound and each one has it's own character. I highly recommend it!

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