



The Dulcimer

Ralph Lee Smith



The Dulcimer:

The Story of the Dulcimer Ralph Lee Smith, 2024-01-12 This is a fascinating well researched text that scholars musicians collectors and luthiers will treasure as a gem of information Scott Suter author of Shenandoah Valley Folklife Perhaps no instrument better represents the music of Appalachia than the fretted dulcimer The instrument was no longer confined to back porches and local music halls when Jean Ritchie so melodically thrust herself and her dulcimer into the national limelight during the folk revival of the 1950s But where did the dulcimer known to exist in no other folk culture in the world come from In *The Story of the Dulcimer* Ralph Lee Smith traces the dulcimer's beginnings back to European immigration to America in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries As German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania and Appalachia they brought with them the scheitholt a type of northern European fretted zither As German immigrants intermingled with English and Scotch Irish immigrants the scheitholt which was customarily played to a slower tempo in German cultural music began to be musically integrated into the faster tempos of English and Scotch Irish ballads and folk songs As Appalachia absorbed an increasing flow of English and Scotch Irish immigrants and the musical traditions they brought with them the scheitholt steadily evolved into an instrument that reflected this folk music amalgamation and the modern dulcimer was born In this second edition Smith brings the dulcimer's history into the twenty first century with a new preface and updates to the original edition Copiously illustrated with images of both antique scheitholts and contemporary dulcimers *The Story of the Dulcimer* is a testament to the enduring musical heritage of Appalachia and solves one of the region's musical mysteries RALPH LEE SMITH is a musician specializing in traditional Appalachian music and along with the late Jean Ritchie is widely regarded as the leading authority on the music and history of the dulcimer He is the author of seven collections of folk songs relating to the dulcimer He recently published a memoir songbook *Greenwich Village The Happy Folk Singing Days 1950s 1960s* which recounts his time in New York City during the folk revival *The Dulcimer Book* Jean Ritchie, 1974-06-01 Words and music for 16 songs from The Ritchie Family of Kentucky How to tune and play and recollections of the dulcimer's local history Illustrations and drawings *Fun with the Dulcimer* Virgil Hughes, 2014-06-10 This beginner's method presents clear concise instruction for learning to play the traditional three stringed mountain dulcimer Thirty eight songs are taught with notation and fret numbers for each note Chord symbols are also included for playing with guitar banjo or another chording instrument Melody playing with drones and basic chord playing are both taught Lyrics are included with the songs for added fun From the time this text was first published it has been a steady best seller *Appalachian Dulcimer Traditions* Ralph Lee Smith, 2010-03-19 The Appalachian dulcimer is one of America's major contributions to world music and folk art Homemade and handmade played by people with no formal knowledge of music this beautiful instrument entered the post World War II Folk Revival with virtually no written record *Appalachian Dulcimer Traditions* tells the fascinating story of the effort to recover the instrument's lost history through fieldwork in the Southern

mountains finding of old instruments and listening to the tales of old folks After reviewing the instrument s distinctive musical features Ralph Lee Smith presents the dulcimer s story chronologically tracing its roots in a Renaissance German instrument the scheitholt describing the early history of the scheitholt and the dulcimer in America and outlining the development of distinctive dulcimer styles in Virginia West Virginia North Carolina and Kentucky The story continues into the 20th Century through the final group of tradition based Appalachian makers whose work flowed into the national scene of the Folk Revival This fully revised edition provides expanded information about the history of the scheitholt and the dulcimer before the Civil War and discusses traditions and types that are still being discovered and documented Smith also adds his personal adventures in searching for the dulcimer s history A new final chapter describes types and styles that do not fit conveniently into the mainstream development of the instrument The book concludes with several appendixes including measurements of representative dulcimers and listings of dulcimer recordings in the Archive of Folk Culture of the Library of Congress

Moods of the Dulcimer Virgil Hughes, Norman Hughes, 2020-07-24 Moods of the Dulcimer touches on history of the Dulcimer as well as Tuning and Theory Also essentials of the Dulcimer such as Double Thumbing Three Finger Picking Dulcimer Chord Diagrams as well as much more Tunes included are Greensleeves Wearing of the Green Rosin the Bow Wayfarin Stranger Mountain Wedding In the Pines and many more

The Hammered Dulcimer Paul M. Gifford, 2001-06-13 The last quarter of the twentieth century saw a renewed interest in the hammered dulcimer in the United States at the grassroots level as well as from elements of the Folk Revival This book offers the reader a discussion of the medieval origins of the dulcimer and its subsequent spread under many different names to other parts of the world Drawing on articles the author has written in English as well as articles by specialists in their own languages Gifford explains the history and evolution of the instrument Special attention is paid to the North American tradition from the early 18th century to the 1970s revival Drawing from local histories news clippings photographs and interviews the book examines the playing of the dulcimer and its associated social meanings

Complete Dulcimer Handbook Mark Biggs, 2011-08-18 This book was written as a basic guide and source book for all dulcimer players from the absolute novice to the most advanced picker with its 53 songs in various modes and tunings the Complete Dulcimer Handbook is meant to be used as a songbook a lesson plan book and a step by step guide from beginner to intermediate or advanced level the author s basic premise is that given this instrument s relatively brief pedagogical history There are no right or wrong ways to play the mountain dulcimer only harder or easier means of reaching the same ends the stereo CD features the author s outstanding performance of 17 tunes from the book

Appalachian Dulcimer Traditions Ralph Lee Smith, 2001-12-18 Now in Paperback A first hand report on an effort to enlarge our knowledge of the Appalachian dulcimer s history by searching the hills and hollers of Appalachia looking at old instruments and listening to the tales of old folks

Dulcimer Maker R. Gerald Alvey, **Dulcimer People** Jean Ritchie, 1975-01-01 Dulcimer experiences news memories snapshots playing styles tuning and tablature methods favourite

songs opinions advice and information on the Appalachian dulcimer

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