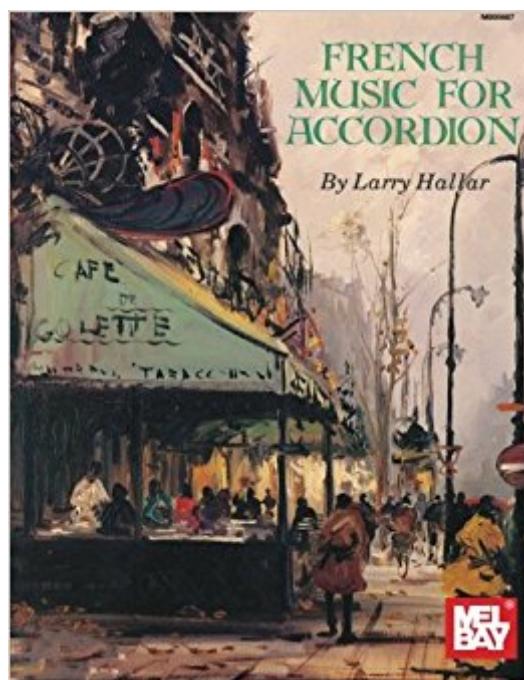


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French Music For Accordion Volume 1 (Mel Bay Presents)



Synopsis

One of the most melodic and romantic genres of music is that found on the streets of Paris as played on the musette. Larry Hallar has artfully crafted keyboard accordion solo arrangements from 25 favorite French musette compositions. These are wonderful solo pieces for any accordionist, and convey the lyrical beauty and romance characteristic of the genre.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Larry Hallar has played the accordion for 45 years. When not playing in the leading hotels, restaurants and ballrooms across the Midwest, he teaches and arranges music for the accordion.

My skill level is probably plain old "intermediate"--and this colors what I have to say about this book. I have been very pleased with this anthology. It has become some of my favorite accordion music to play. First thing I did was to photocopy, cut and paste so that there would be no awkward page turns. Print is large and legible, easy to read. There are a few editorial errors, but you'll hear those and correct them. What I like best about the book: 1) offers good variety of forms: paso dobles, waltzes, tangos, polkas; 2) there is a range of difficulty, but the pieces are mostly intermediate-level*; 3) on the whole the arrangements are not puffed-up, inflated, or overly elaborate, and to me at least (never having heard an accordion in Paris) they sound "authentic"--if you 'cordion has a musette stop, absolutely necessary, IMHO; 3) there is sufficient challenge at

playing florid passages, triplets, etc. up to tempo, working out efficient fingerings, etc.; 4) this music is occasionally harmonically more advanced (it has more sophisticated chords) than I was used to, so it has expanded my world a bit; 5) mostly it's background music (as another reviewer said), not flashy solo stuff. 6) good exposure to some of the "classical" French composers: Privat, Verschuren, etc. *Can't define it, but I know it when I see it.

DITTO to nearly every five star review in this list! This has been my favorite anthology since I opened it and sight read a few of the waltzes and tangos! One of the most interesting points in these arrangements is how helpful they are building technique and subtly supporting learning a bit more music theory. Many of the tunes include arpeggios and runs that require a few tries to play smoothly, but the melodies are so delightful practicing them feels like dancing down the keyboard. The forms of each song move fluidly through minor and major keys, based on relationships that become understandable and aurally recognizable the more selections are practiced.

This is a collection of tunes one could expect to hear on the subway, or streets of Paris. It is authentic and professionally scored. I opted to try some of the tunes this summer on the piano before trying out on the accordion. I do not have a musette accordion, but I had a little fun using the "musette" stop on my digital piano and found some tunes I really liked this way. I just spent two weeks in France and was always on the lookout for musette accordionistes. This collection consists of a variety of authentic waltzes, polkas, tangos, and sambas, and will give me inspiration to learn these on the accordion, even if I don't have a musette accordion. Very happy with this purchase!

Good book for just past beginner into intermediate

Very nice authentic arrangements of French musette pieces, not pop tunes. Just what I was looking for. Most pieces are appropriate for a person with intermediate skill on the accordion. Some pieces are more difficult. I am enjoying it very much.

arrived at time promised good selections

Looking forward to playing these songs.

Some very nice songs in here from Intermediate to Adv. Intermediate. Right hand chords are filled

out so you can play some or all depending on skill level. Only giving 4 stars because about every third song has missing key signatures or wrong notes, but they're usually blatant enough that they're easy to pencil in.

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