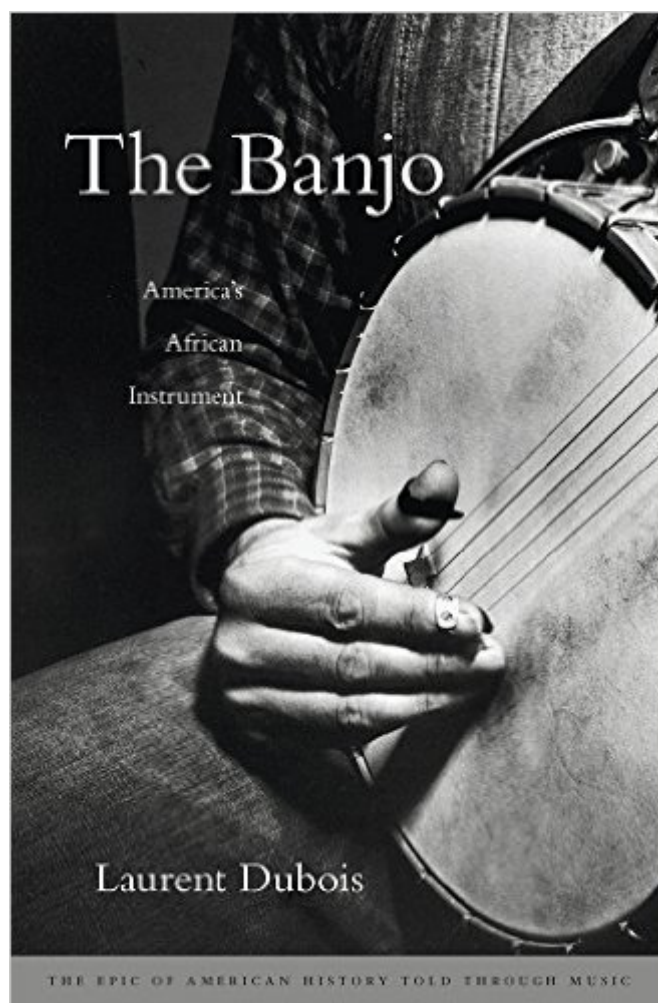


The book was found

The Banjo: America's African Instrument



Synopsis

The banjo has been called by many names over its history, but they all refer to the same sound—strings humming over skin—that has eased souls and electrified crowds for centuries. The Banjo invites us to hear that sound afresh in a biography of one of America's iconic folk instruments. Attuned to a rich heritage spanning continents and cultures, Laurent Dubois traces the banjo from humble origins, revealing how it became one of the great stars of American musical life. In the seventeenth century, enslaved people in the Caribbean and North America drew on their memories of varied African musical traditions to construct instruments from carved-out gourds covered with animal skin. Providing a much-needed sense of rootedness, solidarity, and consolation, banjo picking became an essential part of black plantation life. White musicians took up the banjo in the nineteenth century, when it became the foundation of the minstrel show and began to be produced industrially on a large scale. Even as this instrument found its way into rural white communities, however, the banjo remained central to African American musical performance. Twentieth-century musicians incorporated the instrument into styles ranging from ragtime and jazz to Dixieland, bluegrass, reggae, and pop. Versatile and enduring, the banjo combines rhythm and melody into a single unmistakable sound that resonates with strength and purpose. From the earliest days of American history, the banjo's sound has allowed folk musicians to create community and joy even while protesting oppression and injustice.

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Belknap Press (March 14, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674047842

ISBN-13: 978-0674047846

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.4 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #243,141 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Banjos #107 in Books > Arts & Photography >

Music > Musical Genres > Folk & Traditional #649 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music >

History & Criticism

Customer Reviews

I just finished this book. It isn't your typical banjo book. There are many good books about the instrument, but none about the cultural context in which the banjo evolved, from a gourd instrument first made by African slaves on Caribbean sugar plantations to the fancy instrument of the bluegrass, old time and folk musicians of today. It's very well written and researched. If you are interested in the history and cultures that gave us the banjo, this is the book you want to read. It covers early African origins, the banjo on the plantations and it's used by enslaved Africans, The Civil War, blackface minstrelsy, the bluegrass banjo, Pete Seeger and the folk revival, and the African American string bands. Good book!

I really enjoyed reading this. The depth of the history of the banjo, and of the slave trade (which goes hand in hand with the history of the banjo) is pretty amazing. My only issue with this book was that when it got to the early 1900s, and talked about artists who had actually recorded their work, I had to stop every couple of minutes to look up someone else, and listen for a while. It made for enjoyable, but very slow, reading.

Very detailed, very in-depth history of the banjo. This is not a light read, but it is an informative one. Should go on your shelf next to all your other banjo books.

This is the most thorough history of the instrument that I've seen, and it goes fairly deep into the history of the music that the banjo is known for. It's detailed, but not pedantic. The author is a professor, but his book isn't written in the dry tone of a research paper that I've seen in other books on this subject. I got it from the library, and I'm half tempted to purchase it outright. I'd like it on my bookshelf.

A great book on the history of the only all American instrument. A wonderful and insightful read. Recommended for all banjo players.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Banjo: America's African Instrument Pete Seeger Banjo Pack: Includes How to Play the 5-String Banjo book and How to Play the 5-String Banjo DVD (Homespun Tapes) America's Instrument: The Banjo in the Nineteenth Century African Masks Coloring Book: A Coloring Book Featuring Over 30 Images Inspired By Traditional African Masks, Cultural History, Folk Art Coloring Book, African Art Decor African Rhythm and African Sensibility: Aesthetics and Social Action in African Musical Idioms Melodic Clawhammer Banjo: A Comprehensive Guide to Modern

Clawhammer Banjo Folk Songs for Banjo: 40 Traditional American Folk Songs Arranged for
Clawhammer Banjo Hal Leonard Banjo Method - Book 1: For 5-String Banjo Absolute Beginners -
Irish Tenor Banjo: The Complete Guide to Playing Irish Style Tenor Banjo More Easy Banjo Solos:
For 5-String Banjo The Ultimate Banjo Songbook: 26 Favorites Arranged for 5-String Banjo
Complete Banjo Repair: The Setup, Maintenance, and Restoration of the Five-String Banjo Bach for
Banjo: 20 Pieces Arranged for 5-String Banjo Bluegrass Gospel: Banjo Play-Along Volume 7
Bk/online audio (Hal Leonard Banjo Play-Along) Easy Banjo Solos: For 5-String Banjo Classical
Themes for Banjo: 20 Pieces Arranged for 5-String Banjo Alfred's Basic 5-String Banjo Method: The
Most Popular Method for Learning How to Play (Alfred's Basic Banjo Library) Classical Banjo:
Banjo/Solos Dixieland Jazz Banjo: Authentic Lead Sheets With Chord Diagrams for Tenor &
Plectrum Banjo Complete 5-String Banjo Method: Mastering Banjo (Book & Online Audio & Video)
(Complete Method)

[Dmca](#)