

Around the Corner: 200 American Folk Songs to Sing, Read, and Play

Introduction

American folk music is a rich and diverse tapestry of songs, stories, and traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. It is a music that reflects the history, culture, and values of the American people.

From the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi Delta, from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, American folk music tells the story of a nation. It is a music of struggle and triumph, of joy and sorrow, of love and loss. It is a music that has inspired and entertained people for centuries.

In this book, we will explore the many different genres of American folk music, from the traditional ballads of

the British Isles to the lively dance tunes of the Cajun and Creole people. We will learn about the instruments that are used to create this music, and we will hear from the musicians who keep these traditions alive.

We will also explore the role that American folk music has played in social change, from the Civil Rights Movement to the anti-war movement. We will see how folk music has been used to raise awareness of important issues and to bring people together.

Finally, we will look at the future of American folk music. We will see how this music is being adapted and reinterpreted by a new generation of musicians, and we will consider the challenges that face this tradition in the 21st century.

American folk music is a living tradition that is constantly evolving. It is a music that is always changing, but it is also a music that is always the same. It is a music that speaks to the heart of the American

people, and it is a music that will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Book Description

Around the Corner: 200 American Folk Songs to Sing, Read, and Play is the ultimate collection of American folk songs for all ages. This comprehensive volume features 200 of the most beloved and enduring songs from the American folk tradition, carefully selected for their musical and historical significance.

From the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi Delta, from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, American folk music tells the story of a nation. It is a music of struggle and triumph, of joy and sorrow, of love and loss. It is a music that has inspired and entertained people for centuries.

Around the Corner features a wide variety of folk songs, including:

- Traditional ballads, such as "Barbara Allen" and "The House Carpenter"

- Lively dance tunes, such as "Cotton-Eyed Joe" and "The Irish Washerwoman"
- Work songs, such as "John Henry" and "I've Been Working on the Railroad"
- Spirituals, such as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Amazing Grace"
- Children's songs, such as "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Each song is presented with lyrics, melody, and guitar chords, making it easy for anyone to learn and play. The book also includes informative introductions to each song, providing context and background information.

Around the Corner is the perfect book for anyone who loves American folk music. It is a valuable resource for musicians, singers, and music lovers of all ages. With its comprehensive collection of songs and informative introductions, **Around the Corner** is sure to become a cherished addition to any library.

Chapter 1: A Journey Through American Folk Music

Topic 1: The Roots of American Folk Music

American folk music is a diverse and vibrant tapestry of musical traditions that have been passed down through generations. Its roots can be traced back to the earliest settlers of the United States, who brought with them their own musical traditions from Europe, Africa, and other parts of the world. These traditions blended and evolved over time, influenced by the unique experiences and challenges of life in the New World.

One of the most important influences on American folk music was the music of the British Isles. English, Scottish, and Irish settlers brought their ballads, dance tunes, and fiddle tunes to America, and these songs quickly became popular among all segments of the population. African slaves also played a major role in shaping American folk music. They brought with them

their own musical traditions, which included spirituals, work songs, and blues. These traditions blended with European music to create new and distinctive genres of American folk music.

In addition to the music of European and African settlers, American folk music was also influenced by the music of Native Americans. Native American music is often characterized by its use of pentatonic scales, call-and-response vocals, and percussion instruments. These elements can be found in many genres of American folk music, including blues, country, and rock.

The roots of American folk music are deep and varied, and its influence can be heard in many genres of popular music today. From the blues to country to rock and roll, American folk music has played a major role in shaping the sound of American music.

American folk music is a living tradition that is constantly evolving. New songs are being written and old songs are being adapted to reflect the changing times. Folk music is a powerful way to connect with our past and to celebrate our shared heritage. It is also a way to express our hopes and dreams for the future.

American folk music has been used to tell the stories of ordinary people, to celebrate the beauty of the natural world, and to protest against injustice. It has been a source of comfort and inspiration in times of trouble, and a reason to celebrate in times of joy.

American folk music is a gift that has been passed down to us from our ancestors. It is a treasure that we should cherish and protect. By keeping American folk

music alive, we are keeping our history alive. We are also keeping the spirit of America alive.

American folk music is a music of the people, for the people, and by the people. It is a music that belongs to all of us.

Chapter 1: A Journey Through American Folk Music

Topic 2: The Evolution of American Folk Music

American folk music is a constantly evolving tradition. It has been shaped by many different factors, including immigration, war, and social change.

Immigration

One of the most significant factors that has influenced the evolution of American folk music is immigration. As people from all over the world came to America, they brought their own musical traditions with them. These traditions blended with the music of the people who were already here, creating new and unique genres of folk music.

For example, the arrival of African slaves in America led to the development of the blues, a genre of music that is characterized by its mournful melodies and

lyrics. The blues has had a profound influence on American music, and it has been adapted and reinterpreted by many different artists, including Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, and Jimi Hendrix.

War

War has also played a role in the evolution of American folk music. During times of war, people often turn to music to express their hopes, fears, and sorrows. This has led to the creation of many powerful and moving folk songs, such as "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "This Land Is Your Land."

Social Change

Social change has also had a major impact on the evolution of American folk music. As the country has changed, so has its music. For example, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s led to the rise of protest songs, such as "We Shall Overcome" and "Blowin' in the Wind."

In the 1970s, the women's movement inspired a new wave of folk music that addressed issues such as equality and reproductive rights. And in recent years, the #MeToo movement has led to a number of folk songs that speak out against sexual assault and harassment.

Conclusion

American folk music is a living tradition that is constantly evolving. It is a music that reflects the history, culture, and values of the American people. It is a music that has inspired and entertained people for centuries, and it is a music that will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Chapter 1: A Journey Through American Folk Music

Topic 3: The Different Genres of American Folk Music

American folk music is a diverse and vibrant tradition that encompasses a wide variety of genres, each with its own unique sound and style. From the soulful ballads of the Appalachian Mountains to the lively dance tunes of the Cajun and Creole people, American folk music has something to offer everyone.

One of the most popular genres of American folk music is country music. Country music originated in the rural areas of the United States in the early 20th century, and it quickly became one of the most popular genres of music in the country. Country music is typically characterized by its simple melodies, heartfelt lyrics, and twangy guitars. Some of the most famous country

musicians include Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, and Willie Nelson.

Another popular genre of American folk music is bluegrass music. Bluegrass music originated in the Appalachian Mountains in the early 20th century, and it is characterized by its fast tempos, intricate harmonies, and use of traditional instruments such as the banjo, fiddle, and mandolin. Some of the most famous bluegrass musicians include Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, and Alison Krauss.

In addition to country and bluegrass music, there are many other genres of American folk music, including:

- **Blues music:** Blues music originated in the African American community in the late 19th century, and it is characterized by its sorrowful lyrics, call-and-response vocals, and use of the blues scale. Some of the most famous blues musicians include B.B. King, Robert Johnson, and Muddy Waters.

- **Gospel music:** Gospel music is a type of religious music that is typically sung in churches and other religious settings. Gospel music is characterized by its uplifting lyrics, soaring melodies, and use of call-and-response vocals. Some of the most famous gospel musicians include Aretha Franklin, Mahalia Jackson, and Sam Cooke.
- **Cajun music:** Cajun music originated in the Cajun community of Louisiana in the 18th century, and it is characterized by its lively melodies, fast tempos, and use of traditional instruments such as the accordion, fiddle, and triangle. Some of the most famous Cajun musicians include Clifton Chenier, Bois Sec Ardoin, and Nathan Abshire.
- **Creole music:** Creole music originated in the Creole community of Louisiana in the 18th century, and it is characterized by its complex rhythms, intricate melodies, and use of

traditional instruments such as the piano, guitar, and clarinet. Some of the most famous Creole musicians include Jelly Roll Morton, Sidney Bechet, and Louis Armstrong.

These are just a few of the many different genres of American folk music. With its rich history and diverse traditions, American folk music has something to offer everyone.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: A Journey Through American Folk Music

* Topic 1: The Roots of American Folk Music * Topic 2: The Evolution of American Folk Music * Topic 3: The Different Genres of American Folk Music * Topic 4: The Instruments of American Folk Music * Topic 5: The Great Folk Music Revival

Chapter 2: The Songs of the American People

* Topic 1: Work Songs * Topic 2: Love Songs * Topic 3: Ballads * Topic 4: Spirituals * Topic 5: Children's Songs

Chapter 3: American Folk Music and Social Change

* Topic 1: Folk Music and the Civil Rights Movement * Topic 2: Folk Music and the Labor Movement * Topic 3: Folk Music and the Anti-War Movement * Topic 4: Folk Music and the Environmental Movement * Topic 5: Folk Music and the LGBTQ+ Rights Movement

Chapter 4: American Folk Music Today

* Topic 1: The New Folk Revival * Topic 2: Folk Music in Popular

Culture * Topic 3: Folk Music and Education * Topic 4: Folk Music Festivals * Topic 5: The Future of American Folk Music

Chapter 5: Appalachian Music * Topic 1: The Roots of Appalachian Music * Topic 2: The Instruments of Appalachian Music * Topic 3: The Genres of Appalachian Music * Topic 4: Appalachian Music and Storytelling * Topic 5: Appalachian Music Today

Chapter 6: Bluegrass Music * Topic 1: The Origins of Bluegrass Music * Topic 2: The Instruments of Bluegrass Music * Topic 3: The Great Bluegrass Bands * Topic 4: Bluegrass Music and Popular Culture * Topic 5: The Future of Bluegrass Music

Chapter 7: Cajun Music * Topic 1: The History of Cajun Music * Topic 2: The Instruments of Cajun Music * Topic 3: The Different Styles of Cajun Music * Topic 4: Cajun Music and Dance * Topic 5: Cajun Music Today

Chapter 8: Creole Music * Topic 1: The Origins of Creole Music * Topic 2: The Instruments of Creole Music * Topic 3: The Different Styles of Creole Music * Topic 4: Creole Music and Dance * Topic 5: Creole Music Today

Chapter 9: Zydeco Music * Topic 1: The History of Zydeco Music * Topic 2: The Instruments of Zydeco Music * Topic 3: The Different Styles of Zydeco Music * Topic 4: Zydeco Music and Dance * Topic 5: Zydeco Music Today

Chapter 10: American Folk Music in the 21st Century * Topic 1: The New Folk Revival * Topic 2: Folk Music and Social Media * Topic 3: Folk Music and Education * Topic 4: Folk Music Festivals * Topic 5: The Future of American Folk Music

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