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BLUES HARP - INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD



Synopsis

(Music Sales America). With this complete, clear instruction method, you'll learn to choose a harp, play cross position, and bend notes while playing in the styles of blues greats like Sonny Terry, Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter, Jimmy Reed, and others. It also includes chapters on lead and accompaniment, performing, amplified harp, history, and much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

You should probably get this book, as it's a great historical reference for blues harp players. The language is great and straight out of another era (lots of talk about "hip cats"). That said, the info contained in the book is a bit difficult to understand (Glover seemed to invent his own tab system).

good for its day perhaps, but it doesn't cover much information. Perhaps my least effective harp book I've ever bought.

Interesting reading

I got this book, or its precursor, in the 70s, loved it but lost it. I needed a follow up on it and this came very quickly after I ordered it. I always loved the flavor of the writing by Mr Glover, a great place to start for beginners. I never got to play well but I enjoyed the help the book gave me, and needed an excuse to play harp.

As a 16-year-old in the fall of 1974, determined to learn how to play blues harmonica, I stumbled across this book purely by chance in the local mall. I picked it up along with my first Hohner Marine Band harmonica. Now, almost 40 years later, as a pro player and teacher, I'm still in awe of Glover's achievement. He may not get every single lick right--his tab system raised as many questions for me back then as it answered--but he DID get the instrument's great tradition exactly right. In his inimitable hipster's voice, with a cool gruffness that makes him seem like every teen wannabe's knowing, disreputable Kerouackian uncle, he hips you to all the Big Names, tells you why they're important, what they're ABOUT, and makes you feel as though you're setting off on a serious, soulful enterprise. This book will inspire you and comfort you; it'll challenge you, too. Are you paying attention? This is your roadmap. It's an ancient roadmap, but that's okay, because the music is about all that old stuff, too. Blues harmonica is a sorcerer's art; a little attitude, a little improvisational juice, a dash of mumbo jumbo, is just as important as sober rationalism. Thanks to YouTube, young players these days have infinitely more instructional material to choose from, and some of it is very good indeed. But nobody--not Gindick, not Barrett, not Gussow (!)--has captured the feel of the music and its warm, sometimes gruff mentorship process more perfectly, in the form of a written voice, than has Tony Glover in this book. Start here.

It's a fun book if you like blowing the blues. To get the less-than-great parts out of the way first, the care and maintenance sections aren't particularly great (and some would, and do, say wrong). The notation used for the tabs is confusing and inefficient. The one great part about this book is all about the "feel" of the blues. The author says that yes, it is a good idea to pick a harpist you like and try to sound like them. You will never sound just like them, but it develops your ability and style. After you do that, the most important thing of all is to try to sound like yourself. That's what blues is all about.

I've been playing blue harp since 1969. I taught myself how to play using this book and recommended recordings. The instruction in this book is simple to understand particularly if you don't have any previous music training of any kind. I've recommended this book to many people and have heard back from them that it was exactly as I described. I've checked out other books and none compare to this one.

This is the book I started with and it's really the gold standard. If something about blues harmonica grabs your soul, Tony Glover is a perfect introduction to helping you on your journey. It's a classic

guide and for a reason. Buy it.

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