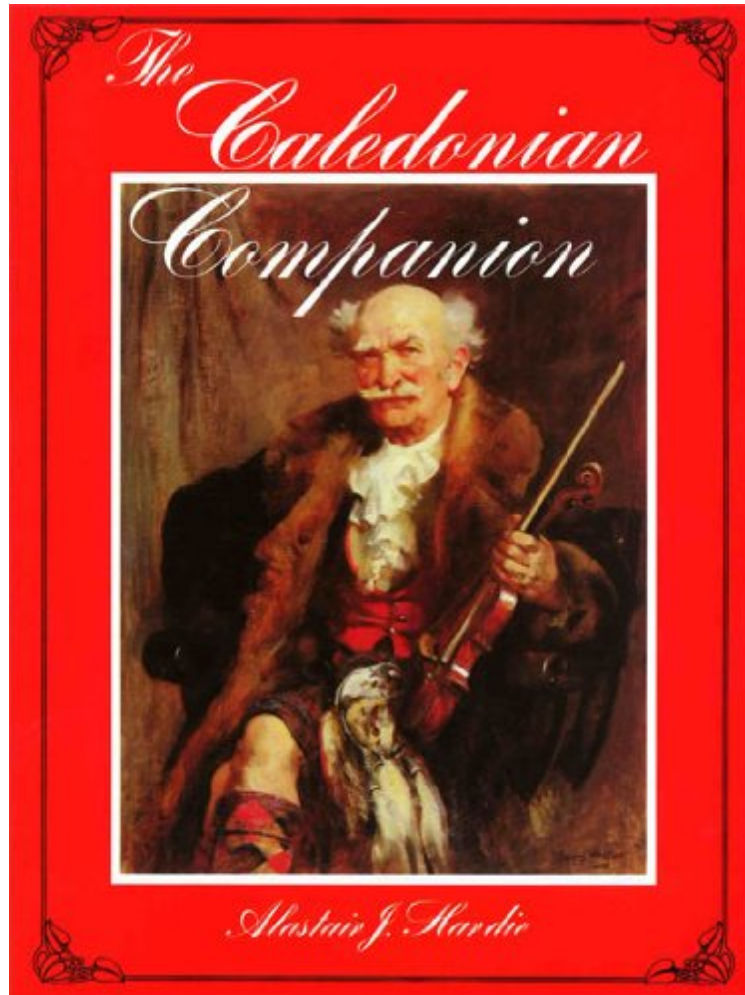


The Caledonian Companion

Alastair J. Hardie

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Alastair J. Hardie : The Caledonian Companion before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Caledonian Companion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By P. C. Nice explanation along with the tunes. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The most detailed source on Scottish East-Coast style By G. Caplan Indispensable to any fiddler interested in picking up an authentic Scottish style. Alastair is a member of a famous dynasty of fiddlers and fiddle makers, and literally learned this stuff at his father's knee. Alastair's book is unique in that it gives extremely detailed suggestions for bowings, fingerings and ornamentation, from his own playing, his father's playing, and transcribed from luminaries like Aly Bain and Angus Grant. He also gives little exercises to help you master the techniques involved. The sections on Strathspeys are particularly strong, and full of interesting ideas. You'll find many years-worth of material here, and it will help you develop your repertoire of Scottish

idioms. Its only real weakness is that it's quite strongly biased towards the East Coast style, which is the tradition he was brought up in. The other major source is Christine Martin's *Traditional Scottish Fiddling*. She covers more ground, in that she surveys all the regional styles. But for most of the book her arrangements concentrate on illustrating a single technique, with only a few at the very end that draw all the techniques together. We are lucky to have two such excellent books, and anyone remotely interested in the field should get hold of both.

An internationally acclaimed collection of Scottish fiddle music and a guide to its performance by renowned Scottish fiddler Alastair J. Hardie. Contains an in-depth literary and pictorial survey of Scottish fiddling and 112 melodies with historical notes and substantial accompanying tutorial explanations such as bowing, fingering, phrasing, ornamentation, etc. Many of the authentic Scottish tunes in this book are not available in any other collection. The tunes at the beginning of the book assume a command of basic skills in playing and reading. Bowing, fingering and ornamentation peculiar to this music are then progressively introduced, equipping the player eventually with the technical know-how for tackling anything from *Tullochgoram* to *the President*. All the common major and minor keys are dealt with in turn and a system of fingering charts has been included to introduce them. Suggested bowings are included with the admonition that players with enough experience should decide on their own interpretation. *The Caledonian Companion* will appeal to the solo fiddler, the folk enthusiast, the devotee of traditional Scottish music and the classical violinist wanting to broaden his or her horizons.