

Introduction

I am very happy to present a book of my original fiddle tunes. I have been composing tunes since 1978. My inspiration comes from people, animals, nature and outer space. That pretty much covers the entire solar system.

In the first part of the book, the tunes are organized in alphabetical order. At the back is a section of tunes written under special circumstances. There is a tribute to Victoria fiddler Dan Page. I played music with Dan starting in the mid-'80s, later joining him in The Dancehall Players and MT Pockets String Band. There is a section for tunes that I wrote for longtime friend, Tony Lambert, another fiddler from Victoria. There are also my "dream tunes", which came to me whilst asleep.

I was born in Ottawa, lived in Portland Oregon until I was 23, then decided to move back to Canada. While living in Vancouver, BC, I learned about other styles of music like folk, celtic, old-time fiddling, bluegrass and gypsy swing. I no longer play classical, but I still listen to it with enjoyment and mostly fond memories.

My first violin lesson took place when I was eight years old, and I played classical throughout my youth. In the 1950s, boys were supposed to play brass, not the violin. After being teased, I wanted to quit violin, but my parents would have none of that. I guess they didn't like tubas! I am glad now that I did not give it up.

One of the many wonderful groups I played with is the Odd Hack Band from Victoria. It was a great time playing with them. For many years, Odd Hack has provided music for local and regional dances. In the late '90s, we released a CD of my tunes. I also played Scottish country dance music with *Barley Bree* as well as Victoria's Mary Ross, an accomplished accordionist.

For the last 10 years, I've been part of The Dancehall Players, who provide music for English country dances. We have released four CDs of English country dance music, as well as one CD of tunes composed by group members. As a member of folk/celtic trio, Three Wide Men, we performed original and traditional songs and fiddle tunes in coffeehouses and retirement homes.

I really hope that you enjoy my tunes. If you would like to use my tunes on your own recordings, please ask for permission. Contact information, as well as a list of recordings, can be found at the back of the book.

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