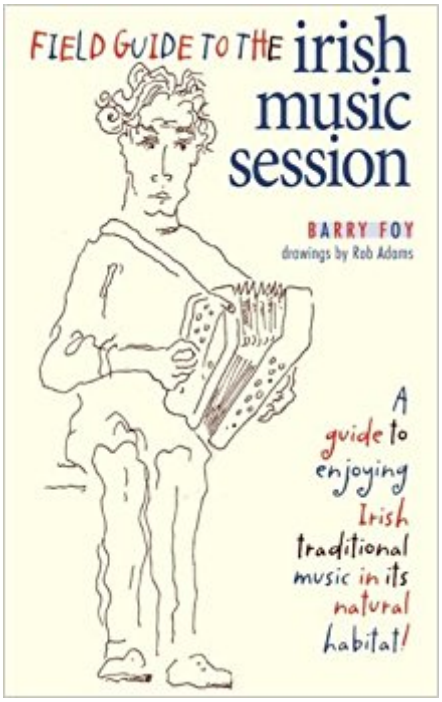
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Field Guide To The Irish Music Session



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Synopsis

The seemingly offhanded, impromptu grace of a good Irish session is no accident. There’s more to it than meets the eye or ear, and a sense of how to conduct a session--and conduct yourself at one--is not something you’re born with, your Irish surname notwithstanding. As the first and only book devoted entirely to the dynamics and etiquette of the traditional Irish musical gathering, Field Guide to the Irish Music Session dares to delve into it all. Whether you’re simply listening, or you’d likeÃ Â to try playing along, this insightful look into how it all works will put you on the road toward a deeper understandingÃ Â and appreciation of the music, while providing a lot of laughs along the way.

Book Information

Paperback: 100 pages
Publisher: Frogchart Press (September 8, 2008)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0981759017
ISBN-13: 978-0981759012
Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.2 x 8 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #620,846 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > International #131 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Ethnic #298 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Folk & Traditional

Customer Reviews

"For those who are unsure of the generally accepted ground rules for participating in a session, this is essential reading."---Martin Hayes, internationally known Irish fiddler"A delightful, whimsical, at times hilarious, yet always penetratingly accurate analysis and description of proper and improper behavior in Irish traditional music circles. Recommended highly for novice and aficionado alike."---Mick Moloney, Irish musician and folklorist

The session player’s best friend!

Written by someone who actually "Gets it". Someone who truly understands, and respects

"Traditional Irish Music", and tells it like it is. This should be essential reading for those who are new to the music, or for those who are actually serious about it, and willing to learn. It is not an end all, or be all guide to the music by any means, but it will give you some of the much needed knowledge that will help put you in good stead with "Traditional", musicians. All, are more than welcome to join in a session, who understand the value of what the Author, has written about, no matter their ability. Everyone in a session, was a beginner at one point in time. Judging by many of the negative comments, many people apparently do not "Get It", and probably never will. And for those people, lighten up. The book was obviously not written to massage your ignorant fragile egos, or to validate your strange narcissistic fantasies of what the music is all about. The book was written about the "Sessions", where the true heart, and soul of the music all comes together. If you are not willing to understand, or respect "Traditional Irish Music", "Please", do everyone a favor. Stay far, far away. You will never have a true place in it, except possibly in your own minds.

Might be useful in certain situation. Certainly worth reading by all folks who play in sessions. If you take the book as a light-hearted, maybe sarcastic read, then it’s a lot of fun. (I passed it around our core session group and they found it amusing, not authoritative.)I do consider the book to be on the "elitist" side. I play in an Irish session on group at a pub. I’m not playing in the New York Philharmonic or at Juilliard. In my humble opinion, Irish session music is based on a FOLK art -- a musical idiom that emerged from the common people. It’s not a "classical" musical art with strict rules based on a structured theoretical foundation or a rich academic tradition. And it’s certainly not overseen by well-off "salon patrons."Being a critical thinker, I like to say "Who says?" Well ... Who says? This is the opinion of the author, and I respect it. He has some good insights, but I don’t consider the book to be an authoritative "last word" on Irish sessions.Don’t take it seriously, but do enjoy it! I did.

A quick, semi-humorous, somewhat profane take on the "rules" of the Irish session. Might be a bit confusing for the true novice, ironically, but is hilarious for those with some experience with the culture and expectations of a "true" session. I laughed often, and have leant it out subsequently, but the information should be taken at least partially tongue and cheek.

As a new whistler who’d love to play *tunes* in a session sometime, I found the advice here to be invaluable, written with that quick Irish wit that I love so much. Glad to find out about session etiquette ahead of time so I know what to expect, and what’s expected of me when I’m ready to

jump in.

This humorous and insightful guide is helpful for the musician who has learned a few Irish tunes (or aspires to learning them) and is ready to tackle a session, as well as the Irish pub-goer who regularly notices the musicians jamming over in the corner and wonders what it's all about. Appropriate and inappropriate instruments for a session, expected participant behavior, the different types of tunes and their playing styles and speeds, and why sessions are important to the vitality of Irish traditional music are all covered.The book is short, sweet, and to the point, just like an Irish dance tune.

After spending a few years hanging around the local sessions, everything in here makes sense (and it's pretty darn funny, too -- if you enjoy a little biting humor).

If you have ever dealt with Sessions. This will help you understand the freaky characters that attend and participate in them.

Packed with information and humor. If you don't want to make a faux-pas at the session, this is the book for you.

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