



## Mel Bay Irish Mandolin Playing: A Complete Guide

By Phillip John Berthoud



**Mel Bay Irish Mandolin Playing: A Complete Guide** By Phillip John Berthoud

This is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Irish mandolin playing. As well as being a complete guide for the absolute beginner, this book also contains a mine of information, useful tips and ideas for the experienced player. The book takes the reader from the basics of the mandolin right through to more advanced topics such as creating variations, emphasis, improvisation, playing with other musicians, practicing effectively and much more. All the tunes and key exercises in the book are included on the accompanying 63 track CD. There is no need to read conventional music notation as all the music is written in easy-to-read mandolin tablature. However, for those interested in learning about music notation there is a handy section on this subject tailored specifically to the mandolinist as well as a chapter on modes.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

Phil Berthoud was born in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1966 but has been based in England since the age of 4. Always interested in music, he took up the guitar at the age of 14 and a few years later met Matt Early, a fine fiddle player from Dublin. Phil accompanied Matt on the guitar for some years until, one night in Madrid, after repeated hearings of Tommy Peoples' High Part of the Road, he decided to take up the fiddle himself. Not owning a fiddle at the time was a stumbling block, and he filled in the time by learning the mandolin which was, at least, tuned in the same way as the fiddle. On returning to England, Phil restrung a beaten up Chinese fiddle and proceeded to soak up as much Irish fiddle music as he could. Through the London session circuit and the recordings of great players such as Tommy Peoples, Tommy Potts, Kevin Burke and Paddy Glackin, Phil took naturally to the fiddle. These days, he spends most of his time performing and teaching on the fiddle as well as mandolin and guitar. With his wife Mahrey and John Brewins, he formed Scatter the Mud in Brighton, England and has now settled in Devon where he continues to perform with Mahrey in the duo Isle. Two children, Louis and Rhianna born in 1997 and 1999 are an inspiration to both Phil and Mahrey.

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