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John Sebastian - Beginning Blues Harmonica (Listen & Learn)



Synopsis

(Homespun Tapes). Please see the Homespun Listen & Learn section of this catalog for a complete description.

Book Information

Series: Listen & Learn

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Customer Reviews

..and I've used quite a few. Other reviewers confuse Sebastian the musician with Sebastian the teacher--great musician, but poor teacher. To begin with, the notation that is used for bends and pre-bends is clumsy and confusing. There are compact, easy-to-understand notation systems, such as what Dave Barrett uses, which are easy to understand and doesn't take all kinds of lines and grace notes to communicate the idea. Sebastian feels the need to make up his own and he botches the job. There are a couple of songs worth learning if you're an intermediate player, for instance, what he calls "Blues Lick" on page 11. Unfortunately, Sebastian doesn't explain anything about the execution of this difficult song, which makes extensive use of blow bends, not a beginner's technique. Worse, his transcription is not accurate and you'll have to slow the song down and analyze it carefully to be able to play it by ear. Definitely not an exercise for beginners, though the song is on page 11, the second song in the book!! I'm an advanced player and it took me quite a while to figure it out, a beginner will only get frustrated and waste time that is better spent elsewhere. I could go on, but I'd be repeating myself with different examples. This might be a book to peruse if you're already an intermediate player and have gone through excellent beginner books

such as Peter Gelling's 10 Easy Blues Harp Lessons and Charlie McCoy's All-American Harp. Gelling's book is 99 pages long and McCoy's is 63, whereas, Sebastian's book is a measly 29 pages. McCoy's book is out-of-print but the Gelling book is the one to start with anyway. And, when you shop for music books, beware of Hal Leonard, which (with notable exceptions) are often more fluff than value.

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