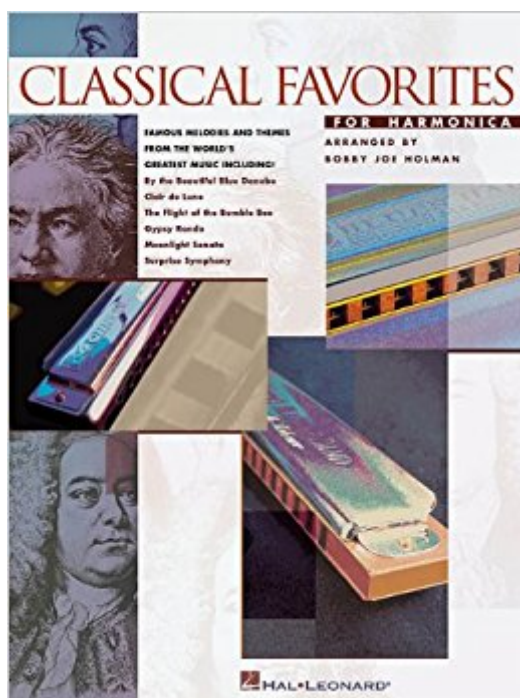


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# CLASSICAL FAVORITES FOR HARMONICA



## Synopsis

(Harmonica). 18 famous classical melodies and themes, arranged for diatonic and chromatic players. Includes: By the Beautiful Blue Danube \* Clair De Lune \* The Flight of the Bumble Bee \* Gypsy Rondo \* Moonlight Sonata \* Surprise Symphony \* The Swan (Le Cygne) \* Waltz of the Flowers \* and more, plus a guide to harmonica tablature.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have recently taken up the harmonica and can play about 60 songs with it at this time. I love all kinds of music including classical and that is why I purchased this item, "Classical Favorites for Harmonica" arranged by Bobby Joe Holman. I discovered that playing classical music on the harmonica is much more difficult and challenging than playing other types of music. Nevertheless, the instructions in this manual are clear and fairly easy to follow, but keep in mind that this IS NOT a beginner's manual. The 64 page text is organized as follows: How to use the music in this book in which it suggests studying Hal Leonard complete harmonica method in order to get the most out of this manual. Understanding harmonica tablature for the diatonic harmonica covers the basic use of the harmonica in some detail. I was familiar with some of the symbols but quite a few were new to me. The next section has the music for both diatonic and chromatic harmonicas. Some of the many classical music pieces includes: Clair de Lune, The flight of the bumble bee, Minuet in G Major, K. 1, Piano sonata No. 14 in C minor, Prelude in G Minor, Op.23, No.5, Theme from Swan Lake, Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, and

numerous other classics. If you are really into harmonica playing and also love classical music you might want to check out this song book. Just keep in mind that this classical music book is really for experienced harmonica players. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: *The Samurai Soul: An old warrior's poetic tribute*).

The seven books in the Bobby Joe Holman harmonica series are excellent ("Movie Favorites", "Songs of Broadway", etc.). It's too bad they don't have a "Look Inside" feature, but if you go to the Hal Leonard website, you can at least view the song list for each book. As another reviewer already said, 3/4 of the chromatic songs, in this particular Classical Favorites book, require a 64 hole harmonica. For me, this is a plus, because it's hard to find harmonica music that uses the full range of the 64 hole chromatic and this should be expected for complex music to be accurately rendered on the harmonica. The other thing that Hal Leonard doesn't say, which is also a plus, is that all of the songs, except one (*Flight of the Bumblebee*), have sheet music and tab for the diatonic harmonica as well as the chromatic; in other words, two different sets of sheet music for each song. This allows you to choose which instrument you want to use. Of course, the 4 octave range of a Super 64 song (Hohner model) must sometimes be compressed into the 3 octave range of the diatonic, but besides this, another musical adjustment is occasionally made. You must compare the chromatic and diatonic arrangements to see if the diatonic arrangements are exactly the same as their chromatic counterparts. This is because neither blow bending nor overbending is indicated for the diatonic arrangements, even though blow bends are defined in the notation key in the front of the book. Instead, the closest possible note is used and not the exact note that would render the music completely accurate. For instance, if a B-flat is required in the middle octave on a C diatonic harmonica, then an overblow must be used on 6 blow to get the B-flat. The diatonic arrangement compromises this and says to just play the B on 7 draw instead. An example of this can be seen on line 1, bar 1 of "The Theme from Swan Lake". This song is in C, and requires a B-flat at this point in the song. This can't be done on a diatonic C harp without doing an overblow, so they wrote a B on the staff (and tabbed a 7 draw) instead of the B-flat. But since you have chromatic sheet music, you can easily alter the diatonic rendition and play the 6 overblow if so inclined. Since not many people can play overblows and overdraws, and no Hal Leonard book covers this topic, they just simplified the diatonic arrangements. They should have stated this at the beginning of the book(s). As for there not being a CD that comes with the music, this isn't the norm for compilations, the inclusion of which, would jump the price significantly. Most of the music in the Holman series are well-known melodies and the music can be heard for free on YouTube, CDs from your library, etc. As a final

note, there are occasional errors, such as showing that you can bend 7 hole draw to obtain a B-flat on a C harp. This is impossible; to get the B-flat, you must overblow 6 blow. These sorts of errors are especially prevalent in his two Christmas books, one with secular pieces and the other with religious. There are also a few titling errors, e.g., the subtitle says the song is in C but the key signature says "G".

Pros: \*interesting song selections\* chromatic & diatonic transcriptions for each song  
Cons: \*often inaccurate diatonic transcriptions\* I found an error in the chromatic arrangement of The Swan, other errors may be in other songs \*no bridges in songs, hence no instrumental interludes, such as might be found in the original songs\* no use of blow bends or overblows for diatonic arrangements, hence arrangements suffer from inaccuracies \*no use of chords, dyads or octaves\* no suggestions for using harmonica effects, such as flutters, warbles, dip bends, glissandos, etc.

But in spite of the errors and deficiencies, this series is strongly recommended for advanced beginner through advanced players of diatonic and chromatic instruments. Among the seven books in the series, there are over 100 great songs. Where else can you find a transcription for Flight Of The Bumblebee for harmonica? Just don't trust everything you read--use your ear and compare the written music with the original songs.

Good Book, good music and easy to play. I didn't like 2 points: The selection of repertoire (3 musics from Beethoven and various good composers with no music) and, at least 75% of the musics for chromatic harmonica was for a 64 voices harmonica (and I'm a owner of a 48 voices) (this information is not written on the site and is important!)

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