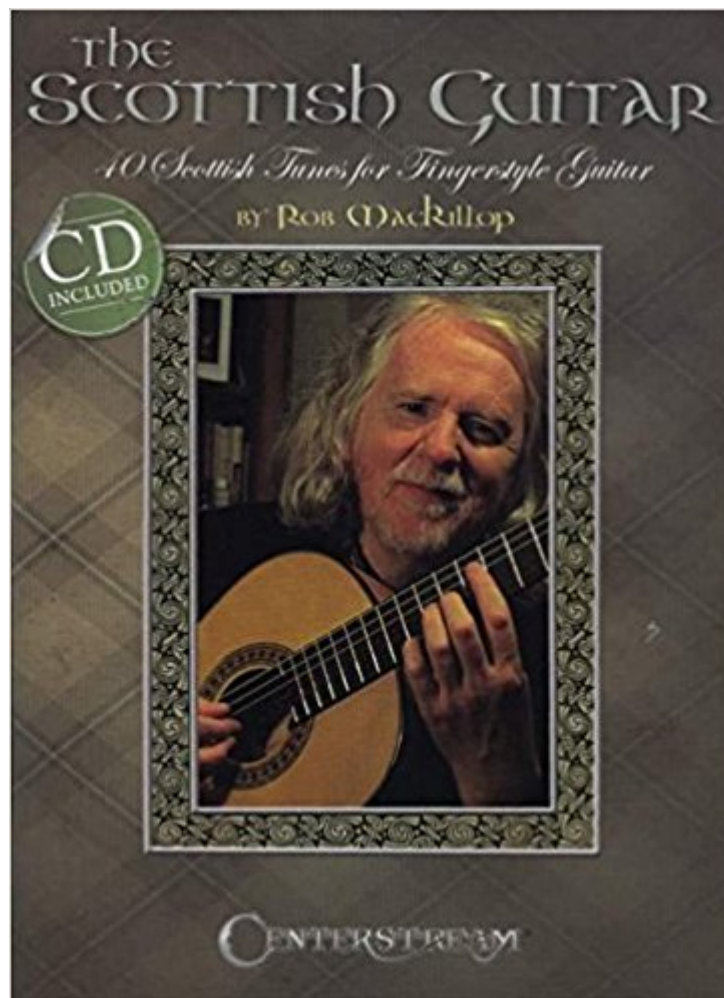




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# The Scottish Guitar: 40 Scottish Tunes For Fingerstyle Guitar (Book/Cd)



## Synopsis

(Guitar). Rob MacKillop is regarded as one of Scotland's finest musicians. In this groundbreaking book, he defines a uniquely Scottish way of playing the guitar, incorporating rich traditions into later material from Gaelic songs to traditional airs and dances. His arrangements reflect the origins of the tunes, with appropriate ornaments and phrasing. The accompanying CD helps players gain a deeper understanding of the subtle art of phrasing. Tunings used are DADGAD, Open D and Open G.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I first heard Rob MacKillop playing Scottish lute music on YouTube, and I became instantly fascinated by it. A quick search lead me to this book, which I immediately purchased. I began learning the tunes, which are all incredibly beautiful and arranged so that they make logical sense on the guitar (hence the alternate tunings). It opened a whole new world for me. That was a couple of years ago, and I'm just as interested in Scottish music as I was then. I'd like to think that my playing has improved somewhat since then, and I have a few videos on YouTube of myself playing tunes out of this book. This is by far the best Celtic guitar book that I have seen (and I've seen quite a few). The first Celtic guitar book I bought had finger-twisting arrangements that discouraged me from playing them. This book is the exact opposite, and you'll find yourself challenged but not frustrated by it. The book centers on Scottish music in particular, which is what I'm most interested in anyway. I still have a lot to learn, and I think that I might even become a musicologist or

ethnomusicologist to have an excuse to keep studying it forever. It's also worth mentioning that the author does Skype lessons at an affordable rate, so even if it's a 4,500 mile swim to Scotland from your front door, you can still contact him for help. I've taken advantage of that on more than one occasion!

The review quoted in my title is a big one to live up to. I don't believe you'll be disappointed. First things first -- lord, that 1 star review below was silly. The fact he says DADGAB throws it out the window.. Rob MacKillop is probably a leading musician of Scottish music of today, and he is near Julie Fowlis in purpose and rank in my opinion. This book is a medievalist's dream come true, it is at the least an incredibly well-laid out reference for Scottish lute tunes on guitar, at the best something that will completely take your perception of classical music to another level. I've been playing classical guitar for at least 4-5 years, and guitar in general for at least a decade. I started my classical repertoire with Mel Bay's Celtic Fingerstyle curriculum (another great book); but Rob's book here is much more along the lines of what I have always been looking for. While I have no problem figuring out songs by ear -- when you have such a huge thirst for knowledge, any notation/tablature is great to make the ride smoother and more easily memorized - and like said before, wonderful for quick reference when you know you're just not playing that section right even after playing it so long (it happens). I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the topic. Though, I will say, I think it is \*best\* utilized in the hands of an experienced musician who can tailor his performances to his personal tastes and liking -- there is a ton of room for improvisation and creative inputs here, and most likely if you're playing these pieces exactly the way Sir MacKillop has them written out, they're not going to sound as good as they could. Now, that statement above in NO way discredits this book or MacKillop; he practically says very similar comments in the book himself. Quirks, here, are encouraged, and the fact that these pieces are laid out for you to digest in a favourable fashion makes this book all the better. The only thing I feel might throw off some fresher-players, is that he is very free with his timing in a lot of the recordings -- sounds great to hear, but difficult to learn in some cases, likely because rhythm which can be consistently analysed is a huge memorization tool. I personally find myself referencing Ronn Macfarlane's Highland King album exceptionally often to hear his versions of many of these same tunes -- and indeed that album itself is a magnificent piece which I highly suggest for anyone in this area. I also recommend the person interested in this topic (and/or this book) to visit MacKillop's youtube channels to see him personally perform many of the songs presented here, on both classical guitar and lute. So in summary; this book is neat and organized and well made; laid out that really any level player could

approach (plenty of simpler melodies; but also enough tunes which are more difficult); but I still stand by my statement, that this is the best as a guide for the experienced guitarist wanting to get into this genre, and to him, this book will be an irreplaceable tool and reference. And, geeze, of course, the price is great!

This is a quality book and great addition to my guitar library. Thank you.

Good selection of tunes from Scottish source material

I ordered this book a few weeks ago and I highly recommend it to everybody who plays the guitar. When you look into it for the first time, you quickly realise you got your money's worth and much more. This book provides: - A wonderful collection of guitar pieces for beginners and experienced players - Very clear and easily readable notation in tabulature as well as in treble clef - A beautifully recorded CD to help you learn the pieces or to just listen to and enjoy - A very entertaining and elegant introduction to the history, technique and interpretation of traditional scottish guitar music One of the great strengths of this book is, that it is very versatile and you can learn with it how it suits you best: - Grab your guitar and enjoy the captivating music right away - Dig a bit deeper and learn to experiment with authentic ornamentation and phrasing - Or start to educate yourself theoretically and practically about the subtle regional differences in the history of scottish lute and guitar music and its performance. Reading the introduction as well as listening to Mr. MacKillops delicate and experienced interpretations of the pieces this book can provide a wonderful source of knowledge! Don't be mislead by the negative review here: I have played pieces in DADGAD tuning with 8 years - there is absolutely nothing complicated about it. It just sounds very beautiful and appropriate for this music. Rob MacKillop is also very active on the internet, he has a great youtube channel and homepage. I found it very easy to get in contact with him, should you have any questions. I have always experienced him as very accessible, friendly and helpful. You can even meet him online for guitar lessons! Bottom line: I love this book!!

Mr. MacKillop is a noted scholar of guitar and lute music. This book is an invaluable resource for anyone looking to learn about what he has identified as a uniquely Scottish style. The one star review on here is ridiculous, disrespectful of an author and performer with an international reputation. Of course these songs are not in standard tuning. Very few lute tunes lend themselves to standard. This book has influenced my guitar playing more than any single guitar book I've

purchased, and I have multiple shelves of them. Check out his book for Mel Bay as well (though I prefer the tunes in this one).

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