

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps an introduction serves best by literally introducing the nature of the work. Obviously, this is a collection of music played on the dulcimer, and for the most part composed or arranged on the dulcimer. To discuss individual pieces would be placing words where no words belong, as the music speaks for itself. In a larger sense, these songs have the purpose of adding to the repertoire of contemporary and traditional dulcimer music. Available repertoires enhance growth no matter what the level of personal musical ability, and maybe more importantly provides new ground for inspiration and musical creation.

The music is written in three ways. There is dulcimer tablature in a style that is readily understandable with a little effort; there are guitar symbols for chordal, harmonic accompaniment; and there is standard musical notation for those who may wish to translate these pieces for other instruments.

In most cases we have tried to score exactly what is "being played" on the album, but please keep in mind that notation serves best by being guidelines for personal exploration into anyone of these themes. To view this collection as static examples of auditory art is to limit the scope of the experience, binding the artist to a narrow understanding of how the music "should be". Remember that fundamentally songs are forms, nothing more than clay pots into which the artist pours the synthesis of their sensibilities and sensitivities.

Verdi ther a göthu



PREFACE TO TABLATURE

We've tried to make this book self explanatory. Read these notes on dulcimer tablature and the glossary of terms and symbols in the back of the book then if at any point in the collection of tunes you should have a question, refer back to these preface notes and the glossary. Should you require extra help on note values and rhythm, consult the appendix.

The music is "folk" in that it was developed by ear and then notated from the actual recorded performance. If you cannot relate to the written form, then learn as much by ear (listening to the record) as possible. Then go back to the book, see how it is written, and learn.