

There is not a great deal of recorded dulcimer music. What there is, however, is usually of high-quality, and can be classified as traditional or contemporary.

Jean Ritchie's album, "Appalachian Dulcimer," (Folkways number 8352) is a fine collection of traditional Appalachian folksongs. Along similar lines is Howie Mitchell's album, Mountain Dulcimer, which serves to explain aspects of his book. You might want to purchase both the book and record as a set.

Possibly the finest traditional dulcimer playing that has ever been recorded is by Paul Clayton. He has a number of albums available, but Dulcimer Songs and Solos is truly outstanding. The music is diverse, the playing is artful and subtle, and his singing is beautiful. It is a Folkways album, number FG-3571.

Contemporary dulcimer music is best exemplified by the work of Mimi and Richard Fariña. These albums are really unique and the music is bright and lyrical. We'd recommend your buying these albums if you can. If you can't buy all of them, try to get the Best of Richard & Mimi Fariña—Vanguard #BSB 21/2. The others are: Memories—Vanguard #79263; Reflections in a Crystal Wind—Vanguard #79204; Celebrations for a Grey Day—Vanguard #79174; and Singer-Songwriter Project—Electra #EKS 7299.