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Easy Lute Pieces Vol.1

Gilbert Isbin has already released a bundle with '25 Easy Lute Pieces' nine years ago. He once again demonstrated that simplicity does not have to be at the expense of artistic quality.

Now he went a step further with a new collection of 16 solo pieces for children and adults, characterized by singable melodies and simple harmonies and rhythms. All compositions can be played in the first or second position. Yet you will find that your fingers end up in places other than what you are used to, because of course it remains Isbin, with, as it is called, the right wrong notes. Finally, the composer also has a wise lesson for us: 'Playing a concert or easy pieces will help you become a better performer' The book can be ordered via www.amazon.com

As an extra service you can download three songs for free ('Passing Fancy', 'Let The Happiness In' and 'A Beautiful Soul'), and also listen to all parts at: <https://gilbertisbin.com/compositions/lute>

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Gilbert Isbin - Easy Lute Pieces, ISBN 9781795412650

The Belgian composer, jazz musician, guitarist and lutenist Gilbert isbin is one of the most productive composers for new lute music.

Already in the recent past, this versatile artist has published numerous interesting compositions, e.g. 7 pieces of old Flemish songs for solo lute, "5 Songs for Lute" (reviewed in Lauteninfo 2-3 / 2018), new art songs based on poems by well-known poets (eg Shakespeare), arrangements for he lute of Nick Drake pieces, as well as the book "The improvising lutenist" (see review by Markus Lutz in the Lauteninfo), which should encourage lutenists to play improvised music.

His lute pieces are already impressively recorded on CD by Stathis Skandalidis and are featured on various YouTube videos performed by Stuart Walsh and Stathis Skandalidis. In addition, Isbin continues to engage himself as a jazz musician and also publishes new guitar compositions.

Now Isbin has again published an attractive new work "Easy Lute Pieces Vol. 1". This time it is a collection of sixteen very catchy tunes written for children and adults, which are very melodic, and above all, really easy to learn and play.

If one deals with the modern lute compositions of Gilbert Isbin, which can also be heard in the many YouTube videos, one thing always emerge: they are, perhaps, comparable to little paintings, often almost with impressionistic moods, of course, with a modern flavour.

Sometimes you can think of small film sequences that would fit well with the music (some of the YouTube videos with music by Isbin already do that very well). Once again, Isbin succeeds in capturing different areas of life and experiences in his compositions.

The book begins with a romantic, "gently" to be performed "The Moon in your Eyes", which is reminiscent of a jazz ballad of bygone times. The book leads us through an "Idyllic Landscape" to the "Beautiful Soul" about a possibly admired or loved one. A small, contemplative, slower-paced (nocturnal score = 80) "Nocturne" leads to the more lively "Heaven Knows," which sounds a bit like a repetitive "litany".

One of my favorite pieces in the new volume is "Let The Happiness In" - a very lively, true to the motto piece with a "catchy character". This is true for a number of the pieces in general. Similarly bright sounds appear "In the Brightness of the Day", which according to Isbin should be "happily" executed. And if you want to end the day quietly after doing "lute work", you are welcome to do so with the song "In the Cool of the Evening", and let the soothing coolness of the dawn fall on you (Tempo quarter notes = 60).

It should be emphasized that the pieces do not ask any great technical demands on young and older lute players! So the works should be well playable even for beginners of the lute. The only prerequisite is the willingness to engage with these "modern" sounds and to empathize with the "tonal miniatures". Anyone who succeeds will be rewarded extensively and amply by this book.

In the meantime, the composer is already working on an "Easy Lute Pieces Vol.2" edition and one may be curious again.

You can buy the book on Amazon : <https://amzn.to/2Dtn5Wm>