

PREFACE

It is a great pleasure to be invited to write the preface for the Folk Music Set by my long time friend and colleague, Phil Rooke. I have been associated with Phil in at least some of the many aspects of music at which he is expert.

It is unusual for such a versatile performer to be equally accomplished in the area of recording - however Phil is very much at home with all the technical requirements needed for the 21st century recording engineer. It is this knowledge which makes the present production such a pleasure to use, with real instruments played by Phil on the compact disc (no electronic shortcuts !) and the valuable addition of three speeds to practice to in each of the folk songs. I worked with Phil in this area when he recorded my trumpet music to launch a new book by Edward de Bono, and can vouch for his expertise.

Phil shows his versatility as a performer on many instruments including guitar, violin, viola, cello and piano. He is at home with many styles of music and I have heard him slip with astounding ease from some of the challenging classics of the violin repertoire to jazz style. These skills are at the base of the widely varied range of his teaching books.

When working hands-on as a teacher, his enthusiasm knows no bounds - as I witnessed recently when he assisted me at a moment's notice with a master class in Penrith at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, and helped 100 senior school students create a new piece of music in one short afternoon. In this book, Phil reproduces a lovely mixture of haunting and lively traditional music to help the student in a very practical way, to participate in the music.

Whatever instrument you play, you will have an instructive, but above all, enjoyable time exploring the world of folk music.

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