

## FOREWORD

The TENOR BANJO as a musical instrument is capable of unlimited possibilities. It is only necessary that the student become a thorough and competent player. The lessons written in this LEARNRIGHT METHOD if followed carefully, will give the student the necessary proper start, which like the foundation of a building, is of the utmost importance.

There are three main elements in music:- MELODY, HARMONY and RHYTHM. The tenor banjoist to be well equipped must master all three and the pupil who can engage the services of a reliable and competent teacher, will find learning quicker, easier and cheaper in the end.

Scales are the foundation of all compositions. Therefore the author gives the pupil in this method the major and minor scales up to five sharps and five flats; also the major, minor, diminished, augmented and seventh chords in these keys.

There are many teaching pieces on the market which the teacher can use in conjunction with the various note combination lessons found in this method. This has a twofold benefit;- it pleases the pupil who is always glad to play new pieces and encourages the publishers to put out new publications.

As the only recognized method of playing a musical instrument is by music, charts or diagrams have purposely been omitted.

The material in this method has been used by the author in teaching hundreds of pupils, a group of which appears on the front cover of this method. This group was awarded the special prize at the gigantic music festival held at Madison Square Garden, New York City by the Committee of Judges in charge consisting of such noted music masters as Edwin Franko Goldman (director of Goldman's Band)- Nathaniel Shilkret director of the Victor Symphony Orch.)- Arthur Pryor (director of the famous Pryors' Band)- George Barrere (famous flutist), and Dr. Henry Hadley (director of Manhattan Symphony Orchestra).

(The following letter was received from Edwin Franko Goldman, Chairman of the Music Festival).

Mr. Stephen St. John  
638 Hamilton St., Schenectady, N.Y.

THE GOLDMAN BAND

Dear Mr. St. John:-

Just a few lines to compliment you and your wonderful orchestra upon the fine performance you gave at the Evening Graphic Music Festival and Band contest on Saturday evening, March 29th, at Madison Square Garden. I was quite amazed at the wonderful effects you achieved. The tonal quality of your orchestra is excellent, the intonation fine and the precision all that could be desired. All in all your whole performance was quite a revelation to me. Your orchestra surpassed anything of the kind that I have ever heard. I herewith extend to you and the members of your organization my congratulations and best wishes for continued success!

*Sincerely,*

(As signed)

Edwin Franko Goldman

As others have learned, YOU TOO can learn. Start and then stick to it!

*Stephen St. John*

## HOW TO HOLD THE TENOR BANJO

Place banjo so that center of rim rests on right thigh, top edge of rim resting against body.

Let right forearm rest on top edge of banjo near tailpiece. Arch right wrist so that pick strikes the strings half way between bridge and end of fingerboard.

Let neck of banjo rest between thumb and base of index finger of left hand.

## HOW TO HOLD THE PICK

Close index finger. Place pick so point of same extends over first joint. Hold in place with ball of thumb. Hold pick loosely at first. Do not stiffen muscles of wrist or arm.