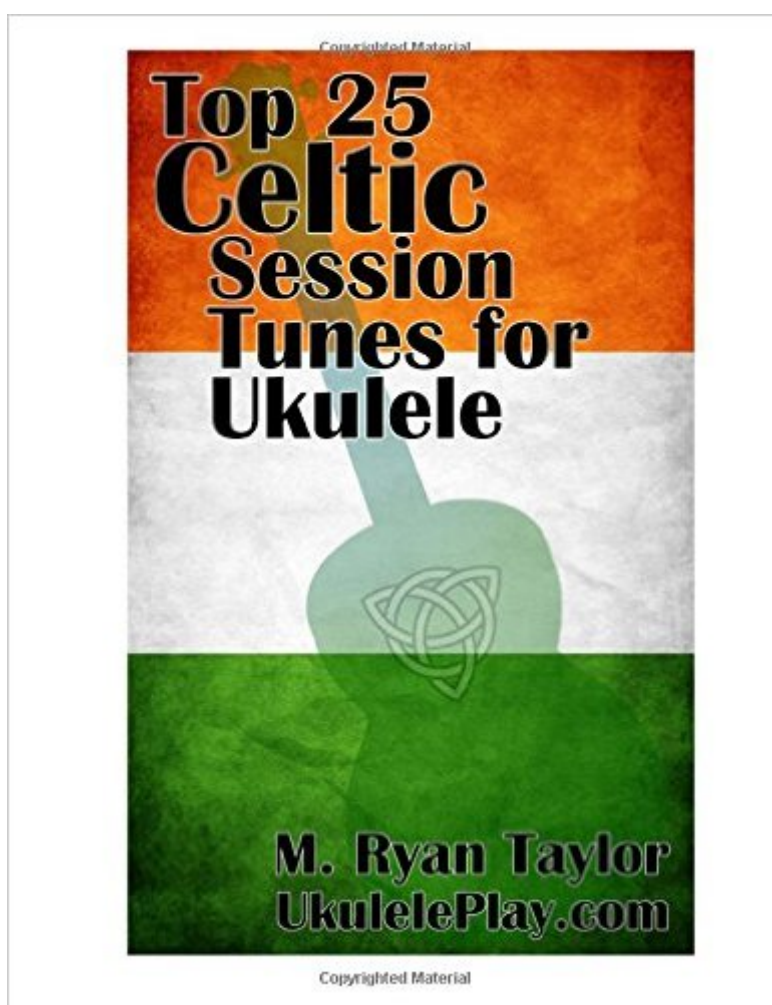


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# Top 25 Celtic Session Tunes For Ukulele: Campanella-style Arrangements Of 25 Of The Most Popular Celtic Session Tunes. (Campanella Ukulele) (Volume 1)



## Synopsis

I began listening to Celtic music in the early 90s when a friend introduced me to Fiona Ritchie's NPR radio program, *The Thistle and Shamrock*. I'd already become aware of some session tunes through the pennywhistle primer my father had given me in the 80s (when he was still a well, active musician and would play duets with me at family Christmas parties), but I had never before heard recordings of the masters of the whistle, fiddle, harp and uilleann pipes. Needless to say, it was a revelation. Shortly thereafter it seemed like the entire world was listening to the lilting jigs and high-stepping dance tunes in the wake of 1995's *Riverdance* phenomenon. I loved most everything I heard in that period, from the very traditional, but incredibly virtuosic playing of The Chieftains to the dreamy Celtic-inspired pop of Enya, to the amazing blend of the two extremes by artists like Loreena McKennitt. Fast forward to 2010s . . . Ever since I started writing and arranging for the ukulele I've been planning this book; one that combines my love of traditional Celtic music with my love of the reentrant ukulele (gCEA), which sounds fantastic on solo dance tunes played in the campanella-style (where you try to avoid playing two consecutive notes on the same string to give the sonic illusion of playing on a harp). I'd like to acknowledge Alistair Wood for introducing me to this style of playing as well as three other inspiring arrangers of Celtic tunes for uke: Jonathan Lewis, Rob MacKillop and Wilfried Welti (though I've avoided their books while working on this title to avoid any unintentional borrowing). If you love this style, please check out their work as well! How were the ^Top 25^ Celtic session tunes chosen out of the thousands of tunes and variations that are available? Quite simply, I went to the top two sites for traditional tunes and chose to arrange the 25 most bookmarked tunes. Hardly scientific, but a good measure of tune popularity nonetheless. I hope you enjoy the results! Sláinte mhaith (good health)!

M. Ryan Taylor

CONTENTS: There are no page numbers in this book. The contents are listed in alphabetical order, as follows. Although there are no 'easy' tunes in this volume, 10 of the 'easier' tunes are marked with an asterisk. Banish Misfortune Banshee\* Blarney Pilgrim\* Boys of Bluehill Butterfly Conaughtman's Rambles Cooley's Drowsy Maggie Gravel Walks\* Harvest Home\* Jimmy Ward's\* Kesh Kid on the Mountain King of the Fairies Lilting Banshee\* Maid Behind the Bar Mason's Apron Morrison's\* Mountain Road Musical Priest\* Out on the Ocean Rights of Man Silver Spear Tam Lin\* Wind that Shakes the Barley\* NOTES: \* All of the tunes (except 'King of the Fairies') are arranged in the campanella-style. There are some places, however, where a repetition of a note on separate strings was not practical. \* Slur marks have been used in the staff notation to indicate places you may wish to use a hammer-on, pull-off or slide. \* A number of the arrangements go up to the 14th fret. I realize not all players have more than 12 frets, but I think enough do to

warrant the inclusion. If your ukulele does not go above the 12th fret, experiment with taking these sections or phrases down an octave. \* Although there are no 'easy' tunes in this volume, 10 of the 'easier' tunes are marked with an asterisk on the contents page.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I played piano growing up, so I read music. Through the years I have dabbled with guitar, mandolin, ukulele and will soon be getting a Seagull Merlin. I say that to say I probably am an instrument collector more than an accomplished player. As for the Ukulele, for the most part, I have played chords and sung. I am a lover of Celtic music. As for the 25 titles in this book, I recognize some and not others. One I would have added if I had done the book would be *Britches Full of Stitches*, but which tunes are the top is clearly up for debate. The format of the book is very clean. It is very easy for aging eyes to read. Trust me, I should know. There is one thing I think should be clarified. There are no chords shown. So, if multiple people are playing and someone wants to play backup, those chords are not available. The book has standard notation in the top staff and tabs in the bottom staff. He clearly states, "Although there are no 'easy' tunes in this volume, 10 of the 'easier' tunes are marked with an asterisk." I appreciate his note and find those tunes to be within my reach. Overall, I like the book and appreciate the hard work involved in getting it to press.

I like this book - the tunes are challenging, and even the ones starred as "easy" need a little bit of

work for an intermediate player and tab reader, in my opinion. But working away at these tunes - a fair number of them, in total, and all interesting - is good fun, and well worth doing : I was aware of most of the tunes, to some extent, with a few being totally unknown to me. I feel the book is a great resource for the intermediate player, as its layout is clear, the tablature easy to read, and the selection of tunes is good. I have seen some ukulele tunes written out with both tablature and some fingering suggestions too, and I wonder if the addition of such suggestions, particularly when playing high up the fingerboard, might be helpful? This is a minor point, though, and would not stop me from investigating the author's other work.

This book is well organised and has both ukulele tab and musical notation in clear print. The book is arranged alphabetically and has a good selection of tunes. Most are in G or C major. For those less well versed in Celtic timings and rhythms the tunes will present a challenge that should push them into new areas. For diehard fans of Celtic music this book is a great resource. For those less engaged a sampling of these tunes added to the repertoire will add good variety. If not familiar with these tunes it helps to review them on record or YouTube to get the tunes and rhythms in before tackling the tab. A good book

This book is a nice little collection of Celtic ditties. Many of them were too difficult for me to play (at my beginner uke/rhythm guitar player crossover stage), but there were ten or so tunes that I was able to finger through at almost the proper speed. The book is well-designed to minimize page-turns and for readability from a distance. Really a good investment for anyone looking for music for St. Patrick's Day or any other Irish celebration. I actually went to a wedding recently where many of these songs played instrumentally only would've got in quite nicely. Note: I received a complementary copy of this book for review.

I have been playing the ukulele for some time and needed to get away from just strumming along at my local club. There are ten simpler tunes marked for players just starting to read tab and/or music. These are the ones I have been attempting myself. As with everything, practise makes perfect and in time, with more confidence I will attempt the others. One small omission from the book is that maybe there could have been the letters for which picking finger to use on which note. I have seen this on other music and believe that this could be a great help to someone just starting to learn finger picking. Personally, this is a good introduction to another form of playing and will be frequently returning to the book....now back to my practising.

I was happy to receive a complimentary copy of this book; I would have put it on my wish list otherwise. I am an advanced beginner to intermediate ukulele player trying to learn to play melodies finger style. I also want to learn to play celtic tunes and appreciate having 25 popular tunes in one package. The songbook is fine as is, but I would have liked to see just a little description of the tunes, such as, "Irish jig Campanella style for ukulele - a Clare tune" (Banish Misfortune). The tunes are a little beyond my level, but I am working through them.

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