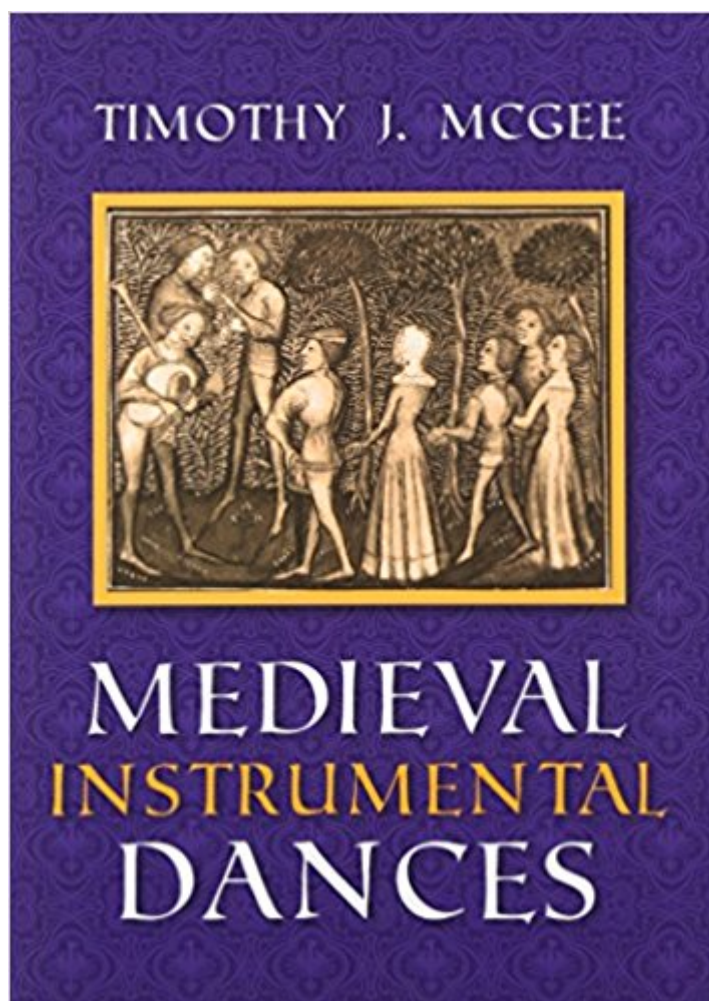




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# Medieval Instrumental Dances (Music: Scholarship And Performance)



## Synopsis

In Europe the tradition of secular dance has continued unbroken until the present. In the late Middle Ages it was an important and frequent event – for the nobility a gracious way to entertain guests, for the peasantry a welcome relaxation from the toils of the day. Now back in print, this collection presents compositions that are known or suspected to be instrumental dances from before ca. 1420. The 47 pieces vary in length and style and come from French, Italian, English, and Czech sources. Timothy McGee relates medieval dances to the descriptions found in literary, theoretical, and archival sources and to the depictions in the iconography of the Middle Ages. In a section on instrumental performance practices, he provides information about ornamenting the dances and improvising in a historically appropriate style. This comprehensive edition brings together in one volume a repertory that has been scattered over many years and countries.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Timothy J. McGee is Honourary Professor at Trent University and Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto. His many books include *Medieval and Renaissance Music: A Performer's Guide*; *Singing Early Music: The Pronunciation of European Languages in the Late Middle Ages and Renaissance* (IUP, 1996); and *The Ceremonial Musicians of Late Medieval Florence* (IUP, 2009).

I am currently in an exchange process with to find out if a copy exists with a spiral binding. Otherwise, having the book spiral-bound will increase the playability of the music. It is, as advertised, both music scholarship and performance.

the price for this book was exorbitant to Canadian customers. I had to use a friend's address in the US to be able to afford buying it at a reasonable price. I wish we Canadians were not penalized in this manner. So unfair. The ring binding was falling apart and I had to replace it. Because of the need to use a US address, it took a very long time for the book to reach me.

This is a great choice for anyone wishing to explore the medieval instrumental dance repertoire--a wonderful jumping off point. However the printing is small, the page turns are inconvenient, and the binding is paper back tight. In other words, it is not designed for performance, so performers will have to do their own prep work in that regard. Also, for serious performers, you should definitely balance McGee's commendable scholarship with others.

I'm no scholar, just an amateur musician and early music enthusiast. I love this book. The tunes are set in easy to play keys and notated much more sensibly than other arrangements I've seen. His endnotes are also pretty good, of course more information and commentary on each piece is always welcome. The spiral binding also makes it easy to use and perform from.

This is a very nice addition to the very hard to find medieval repertoire. All the known instrumental pieces of music are in this book. I have some reserve on some rhythmic choices made by the author. Nevertheless, this is a must have book for any medieval music lover.

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