

159 ORIGINAL GEORGIA FIDDLE TUNES—BY FRANK MALOY—Patuxent Music, No Number Includes three CDs, \$19.95 (Patuxent, Music, P O Box 572, Rockville, MD 20848, www.pxrec.com)

Frank Maloy is a fiddle man. He was one of the driving forces behind the old *Devil's Box* magazine, where his tune transcriptions were featured in each issue. The style of those transcriptions is present here, sans the tab that he included for those fiddlers who did not read music. One tune for each county in Georgia, a state blessed with many counties, is a major undertaking. Just coming up with 159 distinct melodies would take someone with a textbook appreciation of fiddle tunes. Maloy is that man.

With each tune, he lists the fiddlers for that county. Just knowing this much about Georgia fiddling makes him one major factor in Georgia fiddle circles. Tom Mindte of Patuxent Music has published this book complete with three CDs of fiddler Casey Driscoll and guitarist Jonathan Grisham playing each of the tunes. The readings are short and a bit dry, but they give the essence of the melody. These tunes will have to be taken up into the tradition to really come to life. There they will undergo the changes that occur as different fiddlers put their twist on the tune and other fiddlers take it up from what they hear. Perhaps more fiddlers read today than at any other time, but it will take their desire to find tunes that speak to them and then continue to play them to take these tunes up into the vortex of tradition.

Washington, D.C., area fiddler, Jack Leiderman wrote an interesting and insightful preface providing much information on Frank and his brother Joe's 65-year careers in country and old-time music. The job of writing arrangements usually fell to Frank, so he was right at home with doing this book. Frank's extensive background in country and swing made him confident that the tunes need not all be in the simpler keys, so he included pieces in E, F and B \flat . All good fiddling keys, but not always that common among some fiddlers.

This book is a work of love by a man who loves fiddling and loves his home state. There was a buzz before this book came out. Time will tell how many of these tunes will persist in the tradition RCB