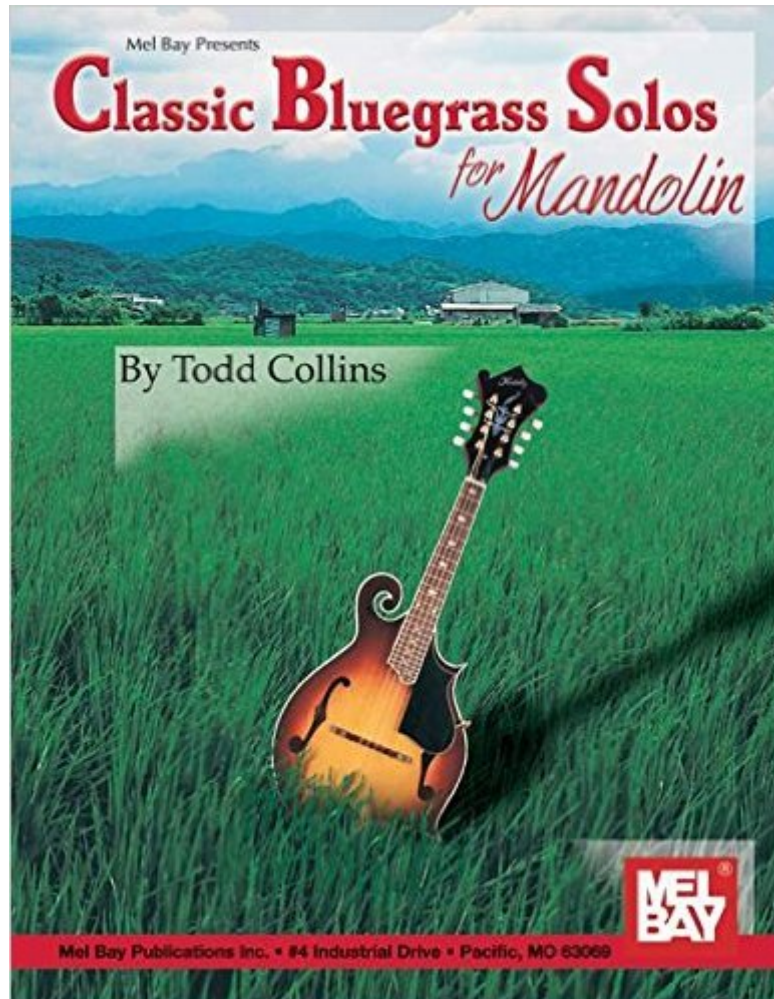


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# Mel Bay's Classic Bluegrass Solos For Mandolin



## Synopsis

Classic Bluegrass Solos for Mandolin is a collection of 22 solo transcriptions. Included are kick-off<sup>™</sup>s, turnarounds and solos from Bill Monroe<sup>™</sup>'s repertoire. An excellent way to study his ideas, technique and approach.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Back in the old days, we learned Bill Monroe's soulful mandolin picking style by playing along with LPs. Now, Todd Collins, associate professor of Music Technology at County College of Morris (Randolph, N.J.), has provided us with a sequel to his 2002 Mel Bay publication entitled "Monroe Instrumentals." This new 2007 volume, "Classic Bluegrass Solos for Mandolin" has standard notation and tablature for the kick-offs, turnarounds and solos found in 22 songs that Bill Monroe recorded between 1949 and 1969. After introductory info on scales, chords and symbols, Collins gets us started on "A Good Woman's Love," with a break that stays close to the melody with Monroe's added bluesy phrasing. It's important to hear Big Mon's breaks, but no CD comes with this book (due to cost and licensing issues). But Monroe's music is readily available. All but "Blue Grass Stomp" are on Bear Family Records' multiple-CD sets of Bill Monroe 1950-58 and 1959-69. So before I jumped into the material, I listed each CD's volume and track number for each tune. That's helpful to have for quick accessibility to recorded versions. "Highway of Sorrow," for example is at track #10 on volume 3 of Bear Family's 1959-69 Bill Monroe set. "Blue Grass Stomp" is on County Records 1980 LP, "The Classic Bluegrass Recordings Volume 2" (CCS-105). Todd's book is a good

introduction to Monroe's technique and ideas. He's picked solid tunes to demonstrate dissonants, constant alternating right hand picking, double-stops, driving downstrokes, classic triplets, fast hammer-ons, syncopation, appropriated licks, tremolo and more. Understanding a little theory about Monroe's playing will open up many doors to further exploration and discovery. Bill once said that Blue Grass Stomp has "got a perfect time for dancing."

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