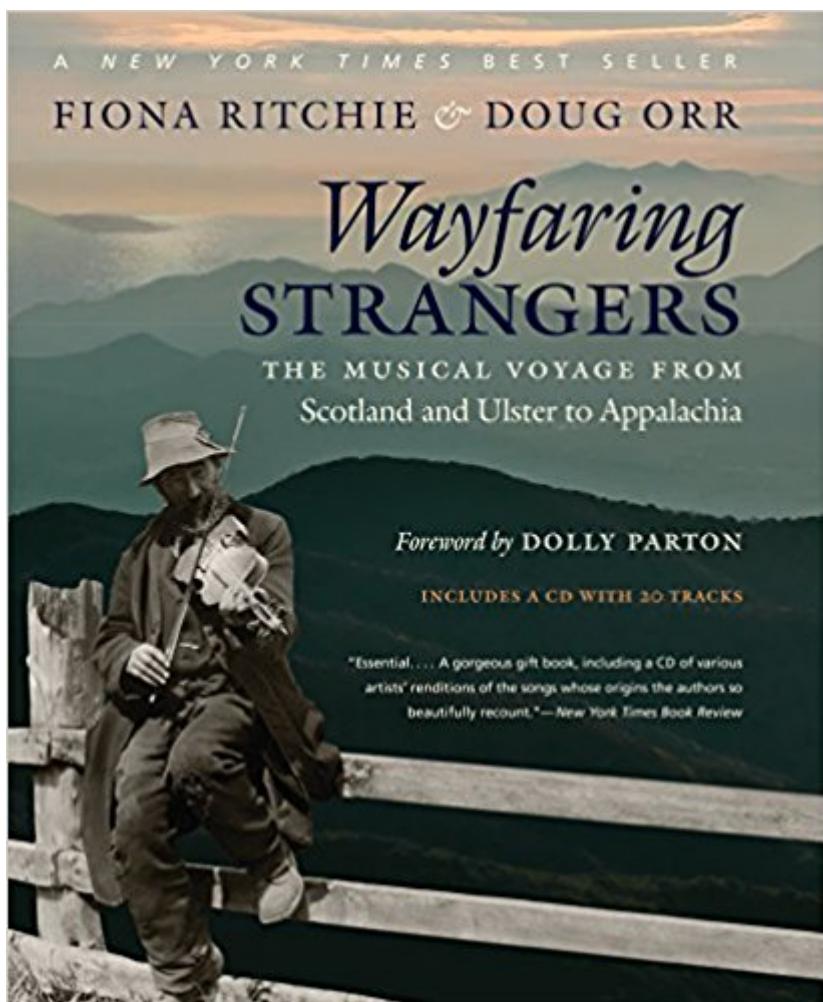


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# Wayfaring Strangers: The Musical Voyage From Scotland And Ulster To Appalachia



## Synopsis

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a steady stream of Scots migrated to Ulster and eventually onward across the Atlantic to resettle in the United States. Many of these Scots-Irish immigrants made their way into the mountains of the southern Appalachian region. They brought with them a wealth of traditional ballads and tunes from the British Isles and Ireland, a carrying stream that merged with sounds and songs of English, German, Welsh, African American, French, and Cherokee origin. Their enduring legacy of music flows today from Appalachia back to Ireland and Scotland and around the globe. In *Wayfaring Strangers*, Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr guide readers on a musical voyage across oceans, linking people and songs through centuries of adaptation and change. From ancient ballads at the heart of the tradition to instruments that express this dynamic music, Ritchie and Orr chronicle the details of an epic journey. Enriched by the insights of key contributors to the living tradition on both sides of the Atlantic, this abundantly illustrated volume includes a CD featuring 20 songs by musicians profiled in the book, including Dolly Parton, Dougie MacLean, Cara Dillon, John Doyle, Pete Seeger, Sheila Kay Adams, Jean Ritchie, Doc Watson, David Holt, Anais Mitchell, Al Petteway, and Amy White.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

[A] beautiful book. . . . Excellent for research as well as a pleasure to read for personal enjoyment.--Tennessee Libraries There is a foreword by Dolly Parton who, glitz and glam aside, is steeped in Appalachian music--'close to my heart and part of my DNA.' The 20-track CD of

performances from artists on either side of the Atlantic which comes with the book opens with Parton joining Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh in a fine rendition of 'Barbara Allen,' a song which, referred to as far back as Samuel Pepys, lilts its winsome way through this whole odyssey.--Jim Gilchrist, Scotland on SundayWill be especially helpful for those with a general interest in American folk, old-time, bluegrass, and country music but who wish to gain a fuller understanding of where this music began and why it sounds the way it sounds." --Goldenseal[Doug] Orr, along with friend Fiona Ritchie, host of the "Thistle & Shamrock" radio show, has set out the history and lore of the music that came with the Scots-Irish immigrants in a landmark book *Wayfaring Strangers*." --Asheville Citizen-TimesNonmusicians will have no trouble appreciating this work's context, and even those well versed in the subject will find new insights here.--Library JournalIf you love Appalachian music; if you're Scots-Irish and wonder about your roots; if you're curious about the words and traditions of the music and how many miles and years the songs have traveled to get here, this handsome book is your most trusted servant, your indispensable encyclopedia and your entertaining Bible."

--Charlotte ObserverRitchie and Orr have created a beautiful book filled with poetic prose, stunning images, and anecdotal gems from some of the most revered figures in Celtic and American music.--West Virginia HistoryOnce in a while, a book comes along whose authors are uniquely fitted to create it. And once in a while a book comes along whose creation not only brings together but actually preserves important details of history that might otherwise be lost. *Wayfaring Strangers* does it all." --Elizabeth Kostova, author of *The Historian*An accessible yet scholarly tale of cultural transplantation and transformation as it played out on two continents.--Southern HistorianTraces the evolution of Appalachian music. . . . Intrigued readers can use the information as a jumping-off point for their own research." --Mountain XpressLikely to encourage those with a liking for Appalachian music to listen more and learn further.--FolkloreA readable and epic tale tracing the flow of Scottish music. . . . [Ritchie and Orr] tell a story remarkable for its breadth and depth, conveying the drama of Scottish emigration via Ulster to Appalachia, by a people who clung to the music and song they held dear, and bequeathed it to America. It is for us to keep our eyes and ears open to see how this river carries on.--Scottish Life Magazine*Wayfaring Strangers* offers a useful general introduction to the relationships between Irish, Scottish, and Appalachian traditional musics.--NotesRepresents an extraordinary feat of research, together with copious interview material. . . . a joy to read from cover to cover, it also rewards just dipping in and out.--fRootsAn enjoyable and informative read for any reader. . . . Shines new light on the development of American music.--Journal of the North Carolina Association of HistoriansThis handsome volume is both a story of a musical evolution and a time capsule that preserves a nearly forgotten era of mountain life.--WNC MagazineEssential. . . . A

gorgeous holiday gift book, including a CD of various artists' renditions of the songs whose origins the authors so beautifully recount.--New York Times Book ReviewFilled with maps, woodcuts, paintings, and photographs of impossibly picturesque Scottish and Irish locales, the book is a treasure trove of imagery and information. Music lovers, prepare to be transported.--BookPageA beautiful testament to the roots of Celtic music and the journeys of the people who brought it to these mountains.--Lady Banks' Commonplace BookA must to any fan of folk or bluegrass.--Wilmington Star-NewsThis book couldn't have been written by anyone without a lifetime of experience and love of the subject and has set a new standard for projects of this nature. They have certainly hit the mark.--The Living Tradition[Ritchie and Orr] strike all the right chords in this pleasantly tuneful survey of the history of the evolution of Scottish music in Appalachia.--Publishers Weekly

The story of the Scots-Irish 'carrying stream' of music that found its way to Appalachia is also the story of the Cash family. William Cash emigrated from Scotland in the mid-seventeenth century, and the next generation drifted down to Virginia. The songs that went with them were captured, in part, a couple of centuries later by my stepmother's family, the Carter Family. My own musical DNA is bound with these songs--the narrative ballads, the melancholy rhymes, the ancient stories retold in melody again and again. Except for my family, there is nothing I love more than being a part of the 'living tradition' captured in this book.--Rosanne Cash, singer-songwriter and authorWho better to write this book than Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr? They have each spent a lifetime intensely interested in the same thread of music from opposite sides of the ocean. The music connected them with each other, I suspect, long before they ever met, just as it connects all of us across miles and time, through generations and immigrations, anchoring us to the story of our ancestors and, ultimately, ourselves. These two are the perfect authors to trace the journey this music has made and to paint the picture of the living, breathing stream that it is.--Kathy Mattea, singer-songwriter and teacherSongs can take us on extraordinary journeys. They respect neither border nor time, and by following them, we can chart the movement of generations of people. In Wayfaring Strangers, Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr take a long look at this story using Scottish songs as their compass. It's a fascinating and often surprising ride.--Cerys Matthews, Welsh folksinger, author, and broadcasterHistory's a strange beast. In the absence of illumination by the lives of real men and women, it can on occasion be reduced to the prosaic. When that happens, often the gaps are filled with kitsch, with a sentimental mire of misunderstanding that does more harm than good. This book isn't like that. It's full of hard fact that's been turned into the best kind of history by even harder

poetry and honest melody. Nothing more is needed. To tie several centuries of peoples' lives together, across oceans and mountains, to make sense of their experiences and aspirations by the tenacious strands of their own music and song--that is a real achievement.--Brian McNeill, Scottish singer-songwriter, producer, and novelistExploring the historic ties between Scotland, Ireland, and Appalachia through music, Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr weave together the story of migration through the lyrics of ballads and other music that reflects on this history. Wayfaring Strangers will touch a powerful chord in the lives of readers who appreciate the music of Scotland and Appalachia, as well as those whose families have ties to this rich historical journey.--William Ferris, author of *The Storied South: Voices of Writers and Artists*In telling the story of the Scottish diaspora in Appalachia through music, Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr have captured a process of adaptation and change that has created a traditional culture that continues to flourish.--Ron Pen, author of *I Wonder as I Wander: The Life of John Jacob Niles*

In this book, the authors weave a tapestry of Appalachian music that is very colorful and very beautiful. This tapestry begins with strands of fiber spun in Scotland and Ireland. During the centuries long voyage across the Atlantic, strands of fiber are added. After becoming Americans, Appalachian residents continued to contribute additional strands of fiber of various colors. The authors of this book describe how all of these strands have been woven into this beautiful tapestry. This book is beautifully illustrated and is divided into three main divisions--Beginnings, Voyage, and Singing a New Song. Each division is comprised of Sidebars and Voices of Tradition. This format and the photographs, paintings and illustrations make the book very interesting and enjoyable. This format also makes the book easy to read "a little at a time". I found the extensive timeline in the back of the book to be very helpful and referenced it periodically. Twenty songs on a CD included with the book greatly complement the text .Tom Newhouse

This is a wonderful book, about the history and heritage, that can be found in Appalachia. The accompanying CD is also outstanding. I have lived in the foothills of this region and heard most of the songs mentioned in the book, but this has made me see things a bit differently, especially as a collector of this music. It also has me wanting to restart the search to find out more about my family's own connections, not only to Appalachia, but also Scotland and Ireland as well. It has a wealth of information about the region(s), and the politics at the time, and how all of that helped to shape these people and their songs, as well as how the African music and traditions helped to shape this music and songs, and how they in turn became part of the American tradition. And the

CD really adds something to the overall experience. The book also gives advice about collecting this music and keeping these traditions alive. I highly recommend this to anyone with an interest in this music and the region itself.

This is a lovely book. One side of my family came from Scotland and Ireland, I was part of the folk music revival of the early 1960s, and my wife and I have traveled in much of the geography the book covers. Names were familiar, songs were familiar. In fact, it got us listening to Gaelic radio on the internet! The reason the book didn't get five stars from me was that it seemed to ramble excessively (like the people the author was writing about), and I found it difficult to find places to stop reading so I could put the book down. I know the current style is for lots of sidebars, but it's not a style I'm comfortable reading because I get distracted on sidebars and lose the thread of the overall narrative. This is my problem; for you it might very well be a five star read.

This is an informative and enjoyable book. However, while the physical book is accompanied by an essential CD containing some of the music referred to in the book, the Kindle version is completely silent--no music. So don't buy the electronic version.

This is a beautiful book with a very thorough analysis of the voyage of musical styles from Scotland and Ireland to the Appalachian region and the different genres that developed as the immigrants settled into their new home area. There's even a CD of Appalachian music tucked into a pocket inside the back cover of the book. Fiona Ritchie and Doug Orr have done a fabulous job with this book. It's reasonably priced, and I highly recommend its purchase!

I have listened to Fiona Ritchie (Thistle and Shamrock) for a very long time, and she is very knowledgeable. Both Doug Orr and she have deep understanding of music's migration from "over there" to "over here". Fascinating story.

I've had an dormant interest in traditional Scottish & Irish music for some years now but this book has awakened an urge to play the music more often & to explore the links into Old Timey, Bluegrass etc. The book is highly readable & the journey through time brought the people, their experiences & their music to life.

This book is a fascinating exploration of folk music's journey from Scotland, Ireland, and the U.K.

Tracing the roots and documenting the journey of songs and music over centuries, stopping Appalachia, becoming something new and how the two traditions have now intertwined. Well worth reading for anyone interested in bluegrass, Celtic, or old-time music.

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