

Baroque & Classical Repertoire – by Chris Acquavella

Mandolin Solo

Title/Composer	Notes	Publisher/Vendor (edition)
Pietro Denis	Notable pieces: Themes & Variations, De la Reine de Golconde, Capriccio No. 1	Trekkel (Wilden-Husgen) Astute Music (UK)
La Fustemberg – Antonio Riggieri	A must learn piece. Has a bit of everything in it. Quite a bit of RH technique but nothing too advanced. Good concert piece but lengthy. This piece has a lot of room for musical interpretation and freedom in performance. Great piece for developing LH & RH technique.	- Santabarbara (Orlandi) - Three Centuries of Mandolin Music by Neil Gladd. (Plucked Strings) - Trekkel (Wilden-Husgen)
L'avez vous vu mon bien aime – Gabriele Leone (aka Pietro Leoni, Sig. Leoni of Naples)	Great 18 th century show-stopper. Lots of right hand technique, including arpeggio technique. A bit hard to read print on facsimile.	Three Centuries of Mandolin Music by Neil Gladd. (Plucked Strings)
Six Partitas – Filippo Sauli	Absolutely wonderful pieces. Early 18 th century works for baroque mandolin. Follow the French dance suite format. Very beautiful and mixture of difficulty. Partita No 1 is the most famous. My personal favorite is Partita No. 3.	- Santabarbara (Orlandi) Includes version for Neapolitan mandolin. - Astute Music (No. 3 only)
Menuet & Allemande en Rondo – Giovanni Battista Gervasio	Nice two movement work. Quite easy to play. Very good program filler. Use improvisation & ornamentation to make piece more interesting.	Trekkel
La Chasse de L'Isle Adam – Gabriele Leone (aka Pietro Leoni, Sig. Leoni of Naples)	Interesting. Deceptively difficult piece. Not quite as interesting of a piece as <i>L'avez vous vu mon bien aime</i> but could be a good program filler. Slightly quirky, if you know what I mean.	Three Centuries of Mandolin Music by Neil Gladd. (Plucked Strings)
Nr. 1: Minuetto, Andantino, Allegro Moderato – Nicolo Paganini	Relatively easy piece. No special right hand technique needed to play. Spends a lot of time in 3 rd & 4 th positions. Audience can either like this piece or be extremely bored from it – all depends on your playing. Needs a bit of musical magic.	Zimmerman – Frankfurt/Trekkel
Suite in D minor – Carl Friedrich Abel	Wonderful piece for baroque mandolin. Rich sonorities and not too difficult. Originally composed for viol da gamba. Arrangement to mandolin by Daniel Ahlert. Works on both Baroque & Neapolitan mandolin. Very enjoyable piece.	Grenzland-Verlag/Trekkel
Various: Favorite Mandolin Solos from the 18 th Century – Alison Stephens	A nice collection of 18 th century pieces ranging is level from beginning to intermediate. Nothing too difficult. Book designed for the amateur player. Very helpful comments, fingerings and plectrum markings. A useful tool for learning how to play baroque music. Mixture of mandolin original repertoire & transcriptions of Bach, Telemann...etc	Astute Music Item #: am514-37
Alemanda & Fuga – Niccolo Ceccherini	Very lovely piece but requires a bit of creative musicianship & baroque music knowledge. Not too difficult to play. Originally for baroque (mandolino) mandolin but still works well on Neapolitan mandolin. Loads of room for interpretation, ornamentation and improvisation. Fun piece to play.	Available for free in “The Early Mandolin” book by James Tylor/Paul Sparks.

Mandolin & Guitar

Title/Composer	Notes	Publisher/Vendor (edition)
Sonata in G – Giovanni Martini Tedesco	This piece can be tricky in places. Very nice music with some unusual harmonies. Originally published in Paris (c.1780)	Vogt & Fritz/Trekel
Sonatas 1 – 6 - Gabriele Leone (aka Pietro Leoni, Sig. Leoni of Naples)	Some of my favorite pieces for mandolin & guitar from the Galante period. Sonata no. 2 & no. 6 needs very good right hand technique. Both are very beautiful, fun to perform and are the most frequently performed. Highly recommended. Sonata No. 2 comes with a mandola accompaniment part (in case you don't know a guitarist or want to do it as a trio).	Vogt & Fritz/Trekel
6 Sonatas – Domenico Scarlatti K77, K81, K88, K89, K90, K91	IMHO – the best composed sonatas of this time period for mandolin. Absolutely wonderful and very fun to perform. Not too difficult but can be awkward in spots. Originally composed for baroque mandolin & cembalo. Guitar parts realized by Marlo Strauss. Highly recommended. Needs a good classical guitarist.	Vogt & Fritz/Trekel
Sonata in C Major – Giovanni Battista Gervasio	Very nice piece with just the right amount of RH technique. Pretty easy with the exception of a bit of arpeggio technique in the first movement. 2 nd movement is gorgeous. Very enjoyable piece but not a show stopper. Very fun to perform. Originally for mandolin & cembalo.	Trekel
Sonata da Camera – Giovanni Battista Gervasio	Arguably Gervasio's most popular composition. Very substantial first movement but slightly forgettable 2 nd & 3 rd movements. First movement is well worth it. Can be a great show opener. Very good RH technique needed, including arpeggio technique. Originally for mandolin & cembalo.	Vogt & Fritz/Trekel
Sonata in C Major (Lautenkoncert C Dur) – Antonio Vivaldi	Excellent piece. Very effective use of triple stroke. Also quick triplets in first movement. Piece is well balanced between mandolin & guitar. Great concert piece.	Heinrichshofen (Behrend)/Trekel
Sonata in G minor – Antonio Vivaldi	A dark piece with steady movement. Uses both basic arpeggio technique and triple stroke. Very strong classical guitarist needed. A lot of barres in this piece: spends most of the time in 2 nd – 5 th position. Wonderful minor piece, which can really offset the other repertoire that tends to be in major keys.	Vogt & Fritz/Trekel
Divertimento di camera Nr. 1 – Gaetano Boni	A lovely "Stately" piece. Doesn't require any special classical RH technique. This piece plods along in an elegant and graceful manner. The Sarabanda is haunting and peaceful. Originally for baroque mandolin & cembalo. Duo Ahlert & Schwab did this arrangement for mandolin & guitar.	Grenzland-Verlag/Trekel
Sonata 6 "A grand orchestre" – Valentin Roeser	Roeser is known to have worked in Paris from about 1762 – 1782. This work is for two mandolins, guitar with an added bass continuo part. The score includes figured bass so it can be performed with a harpsichordist. No special classical technique required. Very Vivaldi (ish) in style & form but with a little kick to it. Three movements (Allegro, Romance & Presto).	Vogt & Fritz/Trekel
Sonata da Camera No. 8 – Abbate Ranieri Capponi	Absolutely gorgeous opening first movement. Can be very elegant and haunting. Nice, pretty, not too hard.	Vogt & Fritz/Trekel

Mandolin Duets (& other instrument)

Title/Composer	Notes	Publisher/Vendor (edition)
Tambourin en Rondeau – Gabriele Leoni	The piece is a balanced work for both mandolins. Good mixture of solid music content and a bit of flash. Moves between G major and minor. Need to use 4 finger quite a bit. No special RH technique needed.	Trekell
Sonata da Camera – Antonio Vivaldi	Originally composed for two violins. Adapted by Juan Carlos Munoz & Marie Fe Pavon. This has become a wonderful addition to the mandolin repertoire. A very lively piece that can be a little tricky in both the left & right hands.	Grenzland-Verlag/Trekell
Six Duettos – Emanuele Barbella	Fun but very notey pieces. They remind me more of violin duets than pieces written exclusively for the mandolin. Very popular pieces with at least one of these being included in a duo's concert repertoire. Very interesting harmonies.	Plucked String Editions/Trekell
Drei Duos, Op.5 – Giovanni Battista Gervasio	Very fun duets and very similar to all of his other compositions. Kind of like Vivaldi – “once you learned one of them, you can kind of play the rest”. Perfect for beginner – intermediate.	Zimmermann – Frankfurt/Trekell
Six Sonatas for two mandolins – Pietro Fouchetti	Very enjoyable, light pieces. Perfect for background music gigs or concert fillers. Early classical period sounding. I use these as sight reading exercises for my students. Perfect for a fun afternoon jam.	Trekell
Duo op.1, Nr. 4, 5, 6 for mandolin & flute – Giacomo Veginy	Nice pieces for mando & flute. They suit both instruments very well. Mandolin is mostly in 1 st position. Will need to be comfortable with double stops as the mandolin holds most of the harmony. Uses triple stroke (RH technique) as well. Intermediate level.	Grenzland-Verlag/Trekell
Duetto in D Major (1790) – Giovanni Francesco Giuliani	This piece is for mandolin & flute. Nice, simple piece that is pleasant of the ears and fingers. Requires quick alternate strokes but no advanced technique. Elegant & stately.	Trekell
Zwei Lieder for mandolin & voice – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Very well known amongst the mandolin community but hardly known at all in the classical music scene. Wonderful concert fillers when performing with a singer.	Musikverlag V. Hladky Wien/Trekell

Mandolin & Piano (clavier, cembalo or harpsichord)

Title/Composer	Notes	Publisher/Vendor (edition)
Four Pieces for Mandolin & Cembalo	Standard repertoire. Beautiful and very effective if given care and attention to detail. I.e...C Major is not Beethoven's rendition of Bill Monroe. Theme & Variation in D & Adagio in Eb are very beautiful and effective concert pieces.	Heinrichshofen (Hladky)/Trekel Published for mandolin & guitar by Zimmermann. (Guitar part is very difficult and a bit clumsy).
Sonata in C Major & Sonata da Camera – Giovanni Battista Gervasio	Both mentioned above in mandolin/guitar repertoire. Originally written for mandolin & bass continuo. I highly recommend playing these pieces with a piano or harpsichord: the harmony becomes much richer.	Vogt & Fritz/Trekel
6 Sonatas – Domenico Scarlatti K77, K81, K88, K89, K90, K91	IMHO – still the best composed sonatas of this time period for mandolin. Gets even better when performed with harpsichord & cello/viol da gamba. Absolutely wonderful and very fun to perform. Not too difficult but can be awkward in spots. Ornamentation already written into part (although I recommend you create your own).	Berben Publishers (Orlandi)
Mandolin Concerto in G Major – Domenico Caudioso	Very elegant, not too fast or hard. Perfect for an intermediate student. Use of double stops & early duo style (fast alternate strokes for upper not in a chord)	Wolfhead Music (John Craton)
Sonata in D – Carlo Aggigoni	Earlier work (c.1730's) – slightly different musical language. Attractive and quite easy. Originally written for Milanese mandolin or Lombardi mandolin – six course strings. This piece works well on Neapolitan mandolin. Starts with a lovely Grave movement. 4 movements total. Edition comes with a cello part, as well as a realized guitar part.	Best Music Source, Inc. (Gladd)
Sonata in G – Adiego Guerra	Lovely concert opener. Reasonably easy but quite substantial and very nice.	Zimmermann
Sonata in D - Emanuele Barbella	Nice 5 movement work – 1 st three movements work well on their own.	Trekel
Grande Sonata – Johann Nepomuk Hummel	Lovely addition to any program – need a good pianist. Piano does all the work – sit back & enjoy. Heavy texture, mandolin part isn't too difficult but attractively composed. A great concert piece.	Heinrichshofen (Hladky)/Trekel

Mandolin Concerti

Concerto in C Major (RV425) & Concerto in G for two mandolins (RV532) – Antonio Vivaldi	The classical mandolinist's money maker. Most, and sometimes only, performed mandolin concerti. Both are real crowd pleasers. Not very difficult but need attention to dynamics & musicality to really sound fresh & unique.	Riccordi (with orchestra parts) Santabarbara (Orlandi) for piano reduction & soloist part. (very nice edition).
Concerto in G – Johann Nepomuk Hummel	A wonderful concerto – possibly my favorite all time. Very sweet & well written. Mandolin never gets buried in orchestra. A rare concerto that uses wind & brass; most are just string orchestras. All cadenzas, except main middle one are editorial by Hladky. Write your own cadenzas.	Heinrichshofen (Hladky)/Trekel Mandolin & Guitar arrangement of the 2 nd movement is available through Astute Music. (very. very nice arrangement) guitar part is a bit tricky.
Concerto in C & Concerto in Eb – Giovanni Paisiello	Two very fun but notey concerti. Possibility that Paisiello actually didn't write these but they have been attributed to him....so we're running with it. Very florid and fun to play. Loads of notes that fly by at the speed of light. Arpeggio technique must be very fluent & fast to play these concerti. These pieces deceptively requiring very good right hand technique. Scored for 2 violins & bass continuo. (who do very little the entire time) Mandolin in control of these concerti.	Manuscripts held in Biblitechque National in Paris. Composer listed as "anonymous". Voft & Fritz published the Eb concerto for solo mandolin & plucked orchestra which is available through Trekel. Not sure where you can get the C major concerto, aside from Paris.
Concerto in G – Johann Adolf Hasse	Easy listening of mandolin concerti. Not difficult at all. Solo mandolin & 1 st violin play in unison most of the time. Definitely more of a concerto grosso than a soloist's concerto. Rarely performed – shame.	Musikverlag Hans Gerig, Koln/Trekel

Additional Bedtime Reading

TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER/VENDOR
The Early Mandolin	James Tyler & Paul Sparks	Oxford Press
A Performer's Guide to Music of the Baroque Period	Anthony Burton	ABRSM
An Introduction to the Eighteenth Century Repertoire of the Neapolitan Mandolin	Paul Sparks	Plucked String/Trekel
Methods de Mandoline de Leone, Fouchetti, & Denis	Leone, Fouchetti & Denis	Minkoff/Trekel (very expensive but worth it).
Baroque Music: Style and performance	Robert Donington	Faber Music
Mandolins of the 18 th Century	Stephen Morey	Editrice Turris – Cremona (Italy)
Baroque Music Today: Music as Speech	Nikolaus Harnoncourt	Amadeus Press
The Interpretation of Music	Thurston Dart	Hutchinson
Authenticity in Performance	Peter Le Huray	Cambridge Press
Performing Baroque Music	Mary Cyr	Ashgate