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Music

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Music reference sources continue to evolve, in part because of technological developments and a broadening interest in nonclassical genres, including world music. A few classic works were removed from the list because they are no longer widely available. Others have been subsumed by new print or electronic works. General sources are listed first, followed by sources specific to one or two genres of music. Major categories include blues and jazz, classical, country and gospel, rock and popular, and world music. Works encompassing more than two genres of music are included in the "General Sources" section. Several select online databases are included, and web links to related sources have been inserted into the narrative, as appropriate.

**General Sources**

**Bibliographies and Discographies**


016.78026 ML113


016.78 ML113

This selection and buying guide continues to be an important tool for building and evaluating music collections of all sizes. In addition to the more than 3,000 musical scores, the third edition includes, for the first time, more than 7,000 sound recordings of worldwide scope. A three-tiered ranking system identifies resources suitable for small, medium-sized, or large libraries. Part 1, “Scores,” is organized by type of score (e.g., score anthologies, orchestral music, chamber music, vocal music, solo performance), and each entry contains composer, uniform title/title, publisher, language(s), and price. Although price and publisher information are outdated, the relevance of the work to library collections remains. Part 2, “Sound Recordings,” is organized within the broad topics of “Western Classical Music,” “Traditional and Popular Musics of the Americas and Europe,” and “Musics of the Non-Western World.” Entries include author, title, publisher, physical format, and recording date. Although availability of the listed sound recordings, particularly in relation to physical format, may have changed since publication, the lists are still valuable as a starting point for collection development.
This guide contains annotations of more than 3,500 significant music reference sources, including more than 1,100 new titles in this fifth edition. Material is organized by category of publication, including guides, bibliographies, catalogs, directories, electronic resources, dictionaries, and encyclopedias. Many entries include citations of published reviews. A single, more user-friendly index has replaced the previous edition's four indexes. Although the section on electronic information resources is understandably out-of-date, this text continues to be an important tool for music research.


Now in its second edition, this unique guide lists song sheets in print, music software, instructional media, and music-related websites for use by music educators or anyone wanting to learn more about music. New to this edition is the inclusion of instructional DVDs and CD sets covering a range of topics, including scoring and notation programs, composition and songwriting software, digital recording and editing, computer-aided instruction, and music theory. The volume also includes a brief history of printed music, essays on music royalties and copyright laws, a list of technical terms, and a bibliography.

**Databases and Indexes**


Alexander Street Press Music Online delivers more than 160,000 tracks of diverse music from a variety of genres, including classical, world, blues, and jazz. This unique online resource incorporates the music and liner notes from Classical Music Library, Smithsonian Global Sound for Libraries, African American Song, American Song, and other online music-listening databases as available into one online music library. Music Online is available on the Web through annual subscription. The service allows the creation of password-protected, custom playlists and course folders with static URLs. Includes *Baker's student encyclopedia of music* and *Baker's biographical dictionary of musicians.*


The music index provides citations for approximately 775 international music periodicals covering all musical styles and genres. A subject list organizes topical and geographic headings about classical and popular music. News and articles about music, performers, and the industry are included. Reviews of books, recordings, and performances are also indexed. First performances and obituaries are noted. *The music index* provides access to the indexes from 1976 to the present and is available either as a stand-alone product or bundled with the print version. The online version supports OpenURL and full-text links to JSTOR participants.

**Dictionaries and Encyclopedias**


This three-volume comprehensive encyclopedia provides more than 5,500 concise entries on a broad range of music, composers, conductors, musical terms, and musical styles aimed at the junior high school level and up. These easy-to-read volumes include timelines for major historical figures, icons denoting entries for people or instruments, sidebars, and illustrations. Each volume contains an index and a full-color insert featuring a musical topic, such as popular performers and music around the world. Coverage includes classical, rock, rap, jazz, reggae, hip-hop, country, folk, popular, world, and New Age music. This resource is also part of the Alexander Street Press Classical Music Reference Library (www.alexanderstreet.com/products/bakr.htm). This online database with approximately 30,000 pages is available either by annual subscription or through one-time purchase of perpetual rights, with prices scaled to budget and size of staff.


**ML100**
This visually appealing volume contains general overviews of the popular music genres of the last century, with an emphasis on recent styles. The work categorizes rock, pop, jazz, folk, blues, country, classical, electronic, dance, reggae, gospel, hip-hop and rap, soul and R&B, world and traditional, soundtracks and theater, and popular and novelty. These sections are further subdivided into subcategories such as fifties pop, Latin jazz, and alternative music. Each section contains a definition of the style, illustrations, a representative example of music, a glossary of instruments and terms, a list of leading exponents of style, and an alphabetical list of performers, composers, producers, and songwriters, with cross-references to relevant music styles.


First published in 1966, this useful resource compiles historical information for nearly 1,000 of the world’s most famous songs, including origins, composers, first lines of music, and copyright dates. Now in its fifth edition, the text has been updated and expanded to include new biographical and bibliographical data. Supplementary information includes first performers, performance dates, and recordings. A broad range of musical compositions are covered, including “Happy Birthday to You,” “Greensleeves,” “My Old Kentucky Home,” and Beethoven’s Symphony no. 5. The volume includes an extensive introduction to the work, an index, and selected illustrations.


Derived from the Oxford dictionary of music (1994), this affordable concise edition provides more than 10,000 entries on musical terms, works, composers, musical instruments, and performers. Entries are alphabetical with cross-references. Entries for composers include work lists. Although some entries have been excluded or compressed for this edition, entries for major composers have not been abridged. A list of abbreviations used is included. Written for general readers as well as professionals, this volume is an authoritative reference work. Also available through Oxford Reference Online.


The fourth edition of this classic music reference work is often referred to as the essential single-volume music dictionary. The work has reverted back to its original title, dropping the word new that was added to the previous edition. Although the focus is still Western classical music, many existing entries have been updated and new entries added, giving greater attention to world and popular music and reflecting new developments in musical scholarship. Entries range from one or two words to encyclopedia length. The volume includes a list of contributors, bibliographical abbreviations, drawings, and musical examples. Unlike other single-volume music references, this work does not include biographical entries.


This sixth edition, the first published since famed musicologist Nicolas Slonimsky died in 1995, retains his unique mark while updating entries to reflect the end of the twentieth century. This detailed reference chronologically records significant events in the history of music during the entire twentieth century, including deaths, performances, festivals, publishing milestones, and music-related documents from around the world. Entries provide pertinent details in a single sentence. Some entries contain further information from letters and other documents as well as Slonimsky’s own insights. The volume includes a list of letters and documents, a dictionary of terms, and an index. This entertaining work provides a wealth of information about classical music, composers, and musicians. This edition has more than 1,500 new entries.


Compiled in cooperation with embassies and governments, this book is the definitive international authority on the national anthems. Entries are arranged alphabetically and include the musical
score and lyrics when available. Words are presented in the original language and English, with a transliterated phonetic version if necessary. The eleventh edition features the words and music for 198 countries, including the new anthems for Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Rwanda, Somalia, and Timor-Leste.

780.3 ML100
The second edition of this indispensable reference work arrived simultaneously in print and online in 2001. Even grander in size and scope than the laudable twenty-volume 1980 edition, this edition expands to twenty-nine volumes, with entire volumes devoted to the appendixes and the index. With the addition of 6,500 new articles now totaling 29,000, this edition expands its coverage of non-Western music, such as Latin American and African music, and covers the developments in musicology during the last twenty years. Although Grove Music Online began as the online version of *The new Grove dictionary of music and musicians*, regular updates and editions to the content have been continuous. Now Grove Music Online also includes *The new Grove dictionary of opera* and the second edition of *The new Grove dictionary of jazz*. Grove Music Online has full-text searching and links to related sites, including more than 500 musical examples. Overall, this is still the definitive source for music scholars. Although the price may seem high, consider that the volumes cost less than $100 each, and history has shown that new editions do not arrive frequently.

This new edition of the classic reference work replaces the single-volume *Oxford companion to music* (Scholes, 1938) and the subsequent two-volume *New Oxford companion to music* (Arnold, 1983). This single-volume work provides entries on a broad range of topics, including biographies of composers and musicians, instruments, works, musical genres, and areas of current research. Western classical music is treated comprehensively although jazz and popular music are included as well. Alphabetical entries range from short definitions of musical terms to extensive articles on musical forms and styles. Tables and examples of notation are included, but portraits and other illustrations included in previous editions are omitted. More than 1,000 new entries have been added on topics such as music on the Internet and politics and music. The volume includes a list of contributors, abbreviations, cross-references, further readings, and an index of people referred to in the text but who do not have separate entries. This reasonably priced title is a useful reference work for general readers. Also available through Oxford Reference Online.

This affordable A–Z listing provides succinct definitions of more than 2,500 musical terms commonly used in Western music, including jazz and popular music genres. Based on *The Oxford companion to music*, this dictionary encompasses a broad range of subjects, including genres, musical periods, scales, pitch, rhythm, and tempo. Entries provide etymologies and cross-references. Some entries include music examples and tables. This book is ideal for students, teachers, musicians, concertgoers, and anyone wanting a quick reference guide to musical terms.

**Directories**

1218  **Songwriter’s market.** 29th ed. Writer’s Digest Books/F and W, 1979–. Annual. ISSN 0161-5971. $338.4 MT67
This guide to where and how to market songs is now in its twenty-ninth edition. The annual directory contains hundreds of listings for record companies, music publishers, music producers, booking agents, and others connected to the industry. The resource also includes interviews with music professionals, articles about songwriting and the music business, and a “quick-start” guide for those new to the music business. Music company entries include contacts, addresses, submission instructions, and multiple indexes, lists of related websites shows.
Handbooks


Now in its ninth edition, this resource continues to be an authoritative reference to the legal, economic, and financial issues of the music industry, addressing such topics as the implications of MP3, copyright revisions, antiboostlegging initiatives, public domain, and more. The resource contains an updated directory of websites for music business information and research sources. An index and appendixes with excerpts from the Copyright Act, a list of music industry organizations, and contract checklists are also included.

Biographical Sources


This classic reference work celebrates its 100-year mark with an expanded centennial edition. Also called the ninth edition, this publication is the first since the death of editor Nicolas Slonimsky, in 1995. The six-volume set contains almost 2,000 new entries on rock, popular, jazz, and country music that had not been extensively covered in previous editions. Coverage of the nonclassical genres continues to be selective. Existing classical entries have been revised and more than 1,000 new classical entries added for a total number of entries in excess of 15,000. Signed entries are alphabetical and range in length from one paragraph to multiple pages. Works or discographies are included as appropriate. Indexes for genre, nationality, and women composers and musicians are included. This resource is available as part of the Alexander Street Press Classical Music Reference Library (www.alexanderstreet.com/products/bakr.htm). This online database with approximately 30,000 pages is available either by annual subscription or through one-time purchase of perpetual rights, with prices scaled to budget and size of staff.

Blues and Jazz

Bibliographies and Discographies


This substantial work continues to be a comprehensive compilation of jazz recordings. Entries are alphabetical by artist with brief biographical information and chronological disc reviews. A four-star rating system is used, and a crown symbol indicates the authors' personal favorites. The "Core Collection" designation, new in the seventh edition, identifies approximately 200 recordings that the authors consider essential to any jazz library. With the 2006 edition, it will be published biennially.

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias


This one-volume illustrated encyclopedia spans 100 years of music and provides a basic overview of jazz and blues music and artists. Each chapter covers one decade and contains separate sections for each genre, noting important artists, themes, and styles. Key tracks of music demonstrating an artists' overall sound are examined, and popular melodies characterizing the music style of the time period are highlighted. The work contains lists of artists in each genre and instruments and equipment used to play jazz and blues. Internet links to sound files, a users' guide, a glossary, an index, and cross-references are also included.

781.65 ML102
This second edition builds upon the impressive first edition (1988), expanding to three volumes and adding 2,750 new entries, including 1,500 on musicians who emerged in the 1980s and 1990s. This one-stop resource to all things jazz provides alphabetical entries for composers, performers, instruments, terms, record labels, venues, and more. Many entries include bibliographies and selected recordings when applicable. The work includes illustrations, listings of abbreviations, a comprehensive bibliography of resources on jazz, a calendar of births and deaths, and list of contributors. This work is now available online along with The new Grove dictionary of music and musicians and The new Grove dictionary of opera, making regular updates and editions to the content easy. Grove Music Online has full-text searching and links to related sites, including more than 500 musical examples.

Biographical Sources

This concise biographical encyclopedia is the revised and updated edition of a work first published in 1993. This edition profiles more than 650 blues artists, discussing each artist's career, style, musical contribution, and essential recordings. The author's broad definition of the blues includes early rock, soul, swing, and boogie-woogie, allowing the inclusion of more artists and a more extensive view of the genre. A bibliography and index are included.

Classical Music

Bibliographies and Discographies

This guide to classical recordings provides reviews and recommendations to help users decide which CDs to buy to suit their individual tastes. The scope encompasses 500 composers over nearly 500 years. The book is divided into three parts and is indexed. Part 1 contains articles that discuss the important works of a composer, listed alphabetically by last name. Entries include brief information about the composer's work, historical significance, and recordings. Part 2 provides articles and recommendations organized by genre, such as Christmas music, film music, and Eastern chant. Part 3 contains articles and recommendations organized by musical instrument and artist. Although this work has not been updated since 2002, it is still a good United States-centric companion to The Penguin guide.

The Penguin guide, now in its thirtieth-anniversary edition, continues to be an important resource for collectors of significant classical recordings. Although the work displays a bias toward British composers and recordings, it lists an impressive number of recordings. A rating system of one to three stars is used, with rosettes arbitrarily awarded to reviewers' favorites. Recommendations are included for the best new classical recordings and "must-have" recordings of classical music. The guide also includes limited super audio CDs and DVD recordings of musical performances. Entries are alphabetical by composer, with brief biographical data, notes about recordings, and price.

This fourth edition includes more than 200 alphabetical entries of significant classical composers, with brief biographical information, a discussion of important works, and reviews of recommended recordings. Essays featuring musical topics are interspersed among the composer listings. The work does not try to be a comprehensive guide to composers or their works. Instead, The rough guide provides an overview of mainstream classical music and selected CD recommendations. A chronology of composers, a glossary, and an index are also included.
Databases and Indexes


The Naxos label is known for its high quality, budget-priced classical CDs. This affordable database contains more than 150,000 tracks of streaming audio from Naxos, Marco Polo, and nearly two-dozen other labels. In addition to covering the full range of the classical repertoire, the collection includes jazz, New Age, world, folk, and Chinese music. Access is through annual subscription. Subscribers have access to new material as it is released, typically more than 200 CDs per year. Users can read notes on the works being played as well as biographical information on composers or artists. Features include custom playlists, static URLs, near-CD quality sound, and extensive searching capability by composer, artist, period, year of composition, instrument, or genre. MARC records are available for purchase. Subscribers can add the Naxos Music Library Jazz, featuring the Fantasy label; the Naxos Spoken Word Library, containing classic literary works; and the SheetMusicNow collection of scores for relatively modest additional fees.

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias


This beautifully illustrated volume examines the history of opera from its roots in the musical theater of ancient Greece through the twentieth century. Chapters are organized chronologically and include an introductory essay, discussion of prevalent operatic genres and styles, a list of key composers, and other prominent figures, such as librettists and singers. Synopses of operas, recommended recordings, a glossary, a bibliography, and indexes are also included. Color-coded themes highlight the history of opera, including developments in composition and vocal techniques; the most celebrated opera houses and performance companies; how composers tailored works to showcase the abilities of prominent performers; and how operas were performed and staged during a particular time period.


This core reference source for opera is now available in paperback, making it much more affordable. Covering virtually every aspect of Western opera from composers, conductors, performers, and directors to genres, costumes, terminology, and venues, this work is now available online along with The new Grove dictionary of music and musicians and The new Grove dictionary of jazz. Grove Music Online has full-text searching and links to related sites, including more than 500 musical examples. For those preferring print, this four-volume set contains signed articles, organized alphabetically with cross-references and bibliographies. Biographical entries include vital statistics and lists of operatic works. Volume 4 contains an index of roles, an index of first lines, and a list of contributors.


The new Penguin opera guide, first published in 1993 as The Viking opera guide, is a comprehensive, one-volume encyclopedia of composers and works from the sixteenth century through the twentieth century. In total, the volume includes almost 2,000 works by 850 composers, covering all forms of opera and a wide-range of composers, from Mozart and Wagner to contemporary composers Hölleger and Tan Dun. Alphabetical by composer's surname, articles summarize the composer's operatic career and contribution to the field with entries for major works listing title, background, plot synopses, libretto, duration, premiere information, cast, orchestra, and musical analysis. Brief bibliographies and selected recordings are included. A glossary, list of contributors, index of librettists, and index of opera titles conclude the volume. The Penguin concise guide to opera includes the most popular composers and frequently performed works from the full version. Critics have deemed it "irreplaceable," "superb," and "marvelous."
This inexpensive, accessible dictionary, based on The Oxford companion to music, provides brief entries of more than 2,000 musical works, encompassing a wide range of genres, including opera, ballet, choral music, orchestral pieces, chamber ensembles, hymns, national anthems, and traditional melodies. Entries provide the genre, composer, librettist, number of movements or acts, scoring, historical context, and important dates, such as composition date or first performance. An appendix lists the composers included in the volume. This handy quick-reference work provides essential details about frequently performed and recorded works and is ideal for anyone wanting more information about the music he or she listens to or performs.

Biographical Sources


This volume provides synopses of more than 650 composers active in the United States from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. Alphabetical entries include biographical data, work lists, and critical examination of key works and influence. Many entries have been checked for accuracy by the composers. A selective list of American composers and their students is provided. Illustrations, a bibliography, and an author index are also included. Unfortunately, the index is not searchable by topic or musical composition.


This volume presents fifty notable composers of classical music within the social, cultural, musical, and political contexts of their times. Beginning with Handel and Bach, this work encompasses 350 years of European history. Each narrative chapter presents a series of sketches from the lives of one or more composers. Readers desiring full biographical accounts or in-depth analysis of individual musical works should look elsewhere. The usefulness of this text is the insights into when, where, and how the composer lived. The volume includes color plates, a map of composers' birthplaces, bibliographical references, and an index.

Country and Gospel Music

Bibliographies and Discographies


This sixth edition lists more than 2,300 artists and 17,800 songs that debuted on Billboard's country singles charts from January 8, 1944, through June 25, 2005. Entries are alphabetical by artist and include brief biographical information, song title, date song debuted on the chart, peak chart position, number of weeks on the chart, and record label. New features of this edition include songwriters' name, major music award winners, and artists' hit songs prior to 1944. A special record-holders section lists top artist and record achievements, including peak chart position of songs and a chronological list of number-one hits. The illustrated, easy-to-use volume provides quick access to country music trivia.

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias


This encyclopedia defines American gospel music as "songs reflecting the personal religious experience of people" and covers both the African American and white gospel traditions. Significant events, musical instruments, musical styles, radio stations, record labels, publications, societies, and biographical profiles of performers, composers, and writers are included. The influence of gospel music on other genres of music and culture is examined. Entries are alphabetical and include selected bibliographies, Internet sites, and discographies. The volume also includes illustrations, end-of-article cross-references, and an index.

This work, first published in 1998, includes nearly 1,300 concise alphabetical entries on the singers, songwriters, record companies, and industry insiders that have made country music one of the most popular musical genres in North America today. Compiled by the Country Music Foundation, this guide presents eighty years of country music history, from the earliest "hillbilly" recordings in the 1920s to the mainstream success of Garth Brooks in the 1990s. Entries include biographical data, professional milestones, representative recordings, and cross-references. Black-and-white photographs are included along with 16 pages of color album art. The volume includes lists of best-selling albums, award winners, Country Music Hall of Fame members, and Grand Ole Opry members. An index is not included.

Rock and Popular Music

Bibliographies and Discographies


This expansive guide to popular music is divided into sixteen major genres of music, including rock, blues, rap, gospel, country, bluegrass, folk, and jazz. Entries include artist name, a brief biographical sketch, a discussion of musical style, album reviews, lists of essential recordings, and suggested first purchases. More than 20,000 albums are reviewed and rated, including compilations, box sets, collections, and reissues. The volume also includes essays on musical topics and music maps highlighting the evolution of musical style and influential performers. The volume's index has been updated online to correct significant errors (www.backbeatbooks.com/pdfs/0879306270_index.pdf). All music guides have also been published for the following genres: classical, country, electronica, hip-hop, jazz, rock, soul, and blues. For the most up-to-date, comprehensive coverage, consult the website.


Now in its eighth edition, The Billboard book of top 40 hits features America's most popular songs and artists from the beginning of the rock era through 2003. This work lists every song that charted in the top 40 on Billboard's pop-singles charts from January 1, 1955, through December 27, 2003, alphabetically listed both by artist and song title. Artist entries include biographical information, chart information, and original label name and catalog number. A special record-holders section lists top artist and record achievements, including the top 100 hits of the rock era, the top 25 number-one hits by decade, the top 100 artists from 1955 through 2003, the top 25 artists by decade, and the number-one singles listed chronologically from 1955 through 2003. The illustrated volume provides quick access to top 40s trivia.


This first edition lists top 40 music-chart information for the most popular rhythm and blues (R&B) and hip-hop songs and artists from October 24, 1942, through December 25, 2004. In 1942 Billboard magazine created the "Harlem Hit Parade," which charted the musical genre that would become R&B. By 1963, in the wake of rock and roll, the R&B and pop charts were so similar that the R&B chart was discontinued until 1965. Chart research from Cash box magazine is included for this time period. Billboard's R&B chart was revived in 1965 and featured hits by James Brown, Aretha Franklin, and the Supremes. Rap music entered the charts in 1979 with "Rapper's Delight" by the Sugarhill Gang and was popularized in the following decades by Run-D.M.C., LL Cool J, and others. Today the music of hip-hop artists such as Usher, Jay-Z, and OutKast is considered "mainstream." Entries are alphabetical by artist or group name and include brief biographical data, date of song debut in the top 40, highest chart position achieved, total weeks in the top 40, and original record label information. The volume also includes an alphabetical song list and lists of top artist and record achievements.

Now in its fifth edition, The Green book of songs by subject organizes more than 35,000 songs into nearly 1,800 themes, such as desire, sadness, marriage, politics, animals, cars, and love. Entries span 100 years and cover all genres of popular music, including rock, country, R&B, rap, hip-hop, jazz, oldies, contemporary hits, popular standards, television themes, and advertising jingles. Compiled over twenty-five years by a music-industry professional, this thematic guide lists songs, artists, selected discographies, and record labels. This fifth edition includes 4,000 search terms and keywords in an expanded index with cross-references.

Databases and Indexes


This reference tool compiles 2,654 children's songs found in 77 American songbooks listed in the Cumulative book index, 1977–1994, under the subject heading "Children's songs." The work contains a list of songbooks included, a song-title index, an index of first lines, and a subject index with subject thesaurus.


First supplement. 386p. 1978. ISBN 0810810999. $016.78242164 ML128


The fourth supplement of the indispensable resource indexes 333 collections of popular songs published from 1988 to 2002 in different genres, including rock, folk, country, blues, show tunes, children's songs, and movie soundtracks. Songs are listed by title, first line, and first line of the chorus, with an index of composers and lyricists. The original volume indexes 301 song collections published between 1940 and 1972. The first three supplements reference collections published primarily between 1970 and 1987.


Building on the venerable Song index, by Minnie Sears (1926; repr., Shoe String Press, 1966), and the Popular song index, by Patricia Pate Havlice, the original edition indexes more than 7,000 compositions from 248 collections of popular songs published between 1988 and 1994. Criteria for inclusion include publication date, the popular appeal of songs, and the lack of indexing in a similar work. A variety of popular music genres are represented, including rock, country, show tunes, jazz, folk, gospel, and holiday music. The resource contains a bibliography of indexed collections with corresponding codes, an index of titles and first lines, an index of composers, and an index of works from musicals, films, and television. The supplement indexes 6,500 popular songs published in 201 collections between 1990 and 1996. The inclusion of first lines as well as titles makes this resource particularly useful.

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias


This visually striking volume presents an illustrated history of twentieth century American popular song and the 200 most prominent performers and songwriters of the era, including Louis Armstrong, Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Ella Fitzgerald, Stephen Foster, Richard Rodgers, Duke Ellington, and Cole Porter. Each entry contains information about the artist's life and career, famous songs, important
contributions, record covers, anecdotes, quotes, and photographs. Hundreds of songs and related topics are featured throughout the book. Coverage is not comprehensive, but is a good overview, particularly of Tin Pan Alley artists. The volume includes song lists, capsule biographies, and index.


The third edition of this monumental work expands upon its predecessor, the Guinness encyclopedia of popular music (Guinness, 1995), by adding 4,500 new entries and two more volumes for a total of 18,500 entries in eight volumes. Coverage includes the popular music of the United States and United Kingdom in the twentieth century, including rock, pop, country, jazz, soul, blues, reggae, show tunes, and rap. Entries vary in length from a paragraph to several pages and cover individuals, bands, recordings, musical theater, films, record labels, and topics. Volume 1 contains an essay on popular music. Volume 8 contains bibliographies by artist and subject, a list of selected fanzines, song title index, general index, and quick reference guide. A useful album rating system has been added to this edition, ranking albums from outstanding (five stars) to poor (one star). This work does have minor problems—the entries are unsigned and the general index does not list the volume with the page number—but overall, this work's comprehensive nature makes it a worthy addition to library collections.


This comprehensive work covers the four components of hip-hop—MCing (or rapping), B-boying (or break dancing), DJing, and aerosol art or graffiti—providing a much-needed reference source about the thirty-year-old genre. The A-Z listing includes artists such as Dr. Dre, the Beastie Boys, Eminem, and the Sugar Hill Gang, who released the first commercially successful rap record, "Rapper's Delight," in 1979. Also included are entries for subjects (gangsta rap, censorship); record labels (Def Jam Recordings, Death Row Records); films (Boyz n the Hood, blaxploitation); and musical techniques (scratching, beatboxing). Entries range from a paragraph to several pages, with cross-references and select illustrations. The volume includes a well-written introduction on the history of hip-hop, a selected discography of rap, a selected bibliography, an index, and the Hip Hop Declaration of Peace, presented to the United Nations in 2002.


This volume records the history of rock and roll with day-by-day entries and lavish photographs marking milestones of musical trends, artists' careers, recordings, and prominent industry insiders. The chronicle begins with the opening of Sam Phillips' Memphis Recording Service on January 1, 1950, and ends with the death of punk icon and Clash co-founder Joe Strummer, in December 2002. Each chapter covers one decade with almost daily entries and includes lists of each year's chart-topping singles in the United States and the United Kingdom. Brief "Roots" sections highlight the beginning steps of some of rock's most legendary stars. Written in association with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, the book includes photographs of rock memorabilia from the museum's collection. An index is also included.


Now in its third edition, this authoritative encyclopedia covers rock-and-roll artists from the 1950s to the twenty-first century. The scope of this work is broad and includes artists as diverse as Elvis, Britney Spears, Eminem, and 'N Sync. The new edition includes revisions to the 1,800 existing entries and more than 100 new entries. Alphabetical entries contain vital statistics, discography, and critical essays detailing the performer's career and contribution to the field. Considered the premier guide to the history of rock and roll, this work is the official source of information for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

Biographical Sources

1250 Baker's biographical dictionary of popular musicians since 1990.
This excellent companion to Baker's biographical dictionary focuses on artists impacting the popular music scene since 1990. In contrast to Baker's biographical dictionary of musicians which emphasizes classical composers and their works, this dictionary focuses on the musical recordings of the included artists. Written for the general audience, the entries provide an overview of each artist's career with birth and death data, genre, best-selling recordings since 1990, and selected discography. The majority of the almost 600 artists included are from the rock/pop, rap, hip-hop, and rhythm and blues genres, although country, classical, jazz, world, and Latin artists are also included. Some artists such as Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys are included for their commercial success, while others, like the Beatles and Nirvana, are included for their innovation and influence. The London Symphony Orchestra is included because of its prolific recordings—it released almost 100 albums in the 1990s alone. It has a long history of recording movie soundtracks, including Superman, Raiders of the Lost Ark and Star Wars and has accompanied a long list of popular artists. The appendix provides historical context with essays on grunge music, rap music, the transformation of commercial radio, and the music industry. A glossary, genre index, and general index are also included.

World Music

Bibliographies and Discographies


First published in 1994, The rough guide to world music became the authoritative source for world music. Volume 1, covering the music of Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, is now in its third edition. Volume 2, covering the Americas, the Caribbean, India, Asia, and the Pacific region, is in its second edition. Features include articles on the popular and roots music of more than sixty countries, complete with discographies, biographical notes, music reviews, playlists for iPod or MP3 players, and photographs.

Databases and Indexes


This database is available on the web through annual subscription and contains more than 35,000 tracks of music, spoken word, and other sounds, including the Smithsonian Folkways collection, founded by Moses Asch. The variety of recordings is immense, from a frog being eaten by a snake to classical violin instruction. The virtual encyclopedia also includes readings of plays, poetry, and other literary works, some spoken by the authors themselves. The children's collection includes songs, games, stories, and sing-alongs from around the world. The majority of the recordings are North American in origin. Controlled vocabularies enable users to browse by a variety of fields, including country, cultural group, genre, or instrument. The service allows the creation of password-protected, custom playlists and course folders with static URLs. The publisher also offers two subsets—Smithsonian Global Sound for Libraries—North America, with 19,000 tracks, and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings Online, covering approximately 325 CDs from the Folkways collection. The Alexander Street Press Music Online Subscription (available at www.alexanderstreet.com/index.html) also includes the Classical Music Library, African American Song, and American Song databases.