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Revolting New York: How 400 Years of Riot, Rebellion, Uprising, and Revolution Shaped a City

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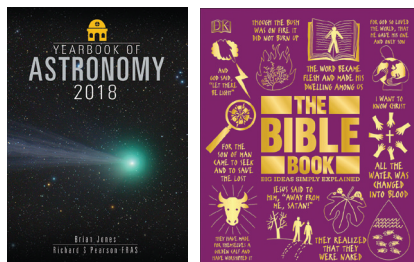
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American Harmony: Inspired Choral Miniatures from New England, 1770–1811, and from the Mid-Atlantic, Appalachian, Southern, Midwestern, and Northeastern States in the Two Centuries Following. 2 vols. David R. Godine. Mar. 2018. 439p. ed. by Nym Cooke. ISBN 9781567925593. \$65. music

Of the many thousands of pieces of the shape-note tradition printed in tunebooks from the late 18th to early 20th centuries, Cooke (*Music of the United States of America*) has chosen 176 for this monumental work. The bulk of the contents are in Volume 1, written from 1770 to 1815, in the New England area. Volume 2, while covering a wider range of time and geographic location, is slimmer, with notable early and contemporary composers. Although the author places the pieces in historical context through detailed commentary, including explanations of texts, sources, titles, meter, and performance suggestions, the book is approachable to those with little knowledge of shape-note traditions. The works are notated with contemporary time signatures and staff notation, but the written shape notes are still maintained. Nonexperts will feel confident performing these four-voice works. Perhaps most valuable for those using this offering as a historical reference rather than for performance purposes are the nine extensive and complete indexes, including indexes of poetic meters and musical feature. **VERDICT** Recommended for not only scholars of early American sacred music but anyone interested in reading about the history and/or viewing and performing pieces created during this time period.—Elizabeth Berndt-Morris, Harvard Univ. Loeb Music Lib., Cambridge, MA

The Bible Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained. DK. Feb. 2018. 352p. illus. maps. index. ISBN 9781465468642. \$25; ebk. ISBN 9781465477170. REL

This new addition to the “Big Ideas” series deploys bold graphics, maps, charts, and photographs, presenting key biblical stories accessibly, with their cultural background and spiritual significance. The seven scholar contributors acknowledge various points of view (e.g., both natural and symbolic explanations of the burning bush) but generally hew to a conservative Christian interpretation. Islam, a religion of the Book, is touched on occasionally. The work ac-



Plotting a clear path for stargazers; introducing key biblical stories to a new generation

knowledges the importance of the Bible to Judaism, but the Christian-centric lens appears early on: the introduction describes the entire Old Testament as a response to the Fall, “culminating in the New Testament.” The authors use the Protestant canon and order, as well as the Protestant (not the Roman Catholic) version of the Ten Commandments. The New International Version Bible quotation in the Sodom story explicitly refers to sex; a comment that Sodom is “traditionally” about homosexuality overshadows one sentence citing the city’s other grievous sins. A directory briefly summarizes additional stories (some problematic to modern readers, including Noah’s curse of Ham, Jephthah’s sacrifice of his daughter, and Solomon’s murder of his half brother). The language is clear and simple, explaining terms such as *theodicy* when necessary. **VERDICT** An informative and engaging introduction to the Bible for general readers.—Patricia D. Lothrop, formerly of St. George’s Sch., Newport, RI

Jones, Brian & Richard S Pearson. Yearbook of Astronomy 2018. White Owl. Feb. 2018. 304p. illus. ISBN 9781526717412. pap. \$29.95. sci

This annual publication, revised each year, is widely recognized by active and casual sky observers as an indispensable guide to the stars. With the 2018 edition, Jones (founding member, Bradford Astronomical Society) and Pearson, who has written several books on astronomy and hosts the monthly YouTube program Astronomy & Space, offer authoritative, detailed sky charts and notes that plot a clear path through the year’s astronomical activity. The first section is dedicated to the monthly star charts, which feature short articles showing the night sky throughout the year. The remaining content focuses on academic material on astronomy

and space-related topics by experts in their field. This book provides a useful overview of basic concepts for amateur astronomers but also offers a welcome refresher for more seasoned stargazers. It ends with a glossary and well-curated selection of astronomy organizations and associations across the world. **VERDICT** An essential reference resource for anyone interested in astronomy.—Gary Medina, El Camino Coll., Torrance, CA

Revolting New York: How 400 Years of Riot, Rebellion, Uprising, and Revolution Shaped a City. Univ. of Georgia. Apr. 2018. 368p. ed. by Neil Smith & Don Mitchell. photos. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9780820352817. \$94.95; ebk. ISBN 9780820352824. HIST

This is a passionate account of the history of riots and uprisings in New York City from the Dutch occupation in the 1600s to today’s Black Lives Matter movement. Smith (formerly, geography & anthropology, Graduate Ctr. at the City Univ. of New York, deceased) and Mitchell (geography emeritus, Syracuse Univ.) theorize that the city’s long history of revolt has shaped contemporary New York and its geography as much as if not more than formal politics, economic growth, urban development, or urban planning. The editors acknowledge their indebtedness to two seminal works, Joel T. Headley’s *The Great Riots of New York* (1873) and Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace’s monumental *Gotham: A History of New York City* (1898) and here extend the city’s story another 120 years with a specialized focus on protests and revolts. Contributors include historians, geographers, social scientists, and urban scholars. There is neither a bibliography nor a further reading list, but the writing is first rate, richly illustrated with historical and contemporary images, historical maps, and maps drawn specifically for this volume. One could argue it works more effectively as a monograph than as a reference. Nevertheless, it is a fascinating, high-quality, and fast-paced study of a city seemingly always at the forefront of mass organizations, riots, and strikes. **VERDICT** This insightful, enthusiastic portrayal of unrest in New York City offers general readers and students of all levels a solid starting place to begin their research on urban social movements and turmoil.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA