9-2019

Music Index with Full Text

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Original Publication Citation

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Music Index with Full Text
EBSCO; www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/music-index-full-text
Free trial available

By Rob Tench

CONTENT This comprehensive guide to classical and popular music in periodicals and literature features digitized content from 1970 to the present. The database contains more than 170 active full-text journals and cover-to-cover indexes, and abstracts for more than 600 full-text journals, with selective coverage for an additional 200 journals. It cites obituaries; news periodicals; reviews of performances, sound recordings, and videos; and more. Among the myriad subjects explored are classical and popular music, film scores, and performance, along with music business, education, history, and theory.

A wide variety of musical genres, from jazz, folk, rock, blues, country, and classical music, including opera, to choral and band music, gospel, and electronic and experimental music, are examined. Additionally, there are journals devoted to specific instruments.

The resource is international in scope, with full-text journals from more than 30 countries, including the United States, Canada, Turkey, Mexico, Ireland, and Italy. It is an excellent companion and complement to the other EBSCO music databases, RILM Abstracts of Music Literature with Full Text, and RILM Retrospective Index to Music Periodicals with Full Text.

The former contains bibliographic information on periodical articles, dissertations, and reviews from the early 20th century to the present, and the latter provides indexing to writings on musical history between 1760 and 1966. If institutions subscribe to all three databases, users can search and navigate them all simultaneously via EBSCOhost.

USABILITY At the top of the homepage, users will find navigational links: “new search,” “publications,” “cited references,” “images,” “more,” “folders,” “languages,” and “help.” In the center of the landing page is a box for conducting a basic search. Other search options, located under the box, include advanced and search history. Patrons can do advanced searches using Boolean options or limit queries by full-text, peer-reviewed articles, document type, publication name or type, date, and image type.

The navigation links are found at the top of every page, allowing users to toggle between search options easily. Selecting “new search” brings users back to the homepage, the basic search box, and the three primary query options. “Publications” permits browsing of individual titles alphabetically, by subject and description, or by “match any words.” “Cited references” points users to citations referenced in search results. “Images” are searchable by type (black-and-white photos, color photos, maps, charts, etc.), Boolean phrase, subject, or related words.

Clicking the “more” tab lets users search the indexes, which include categories such as “geographic term,” “company entity,” and author supplied keyword term. Users can also save materials (articles, audiobooks, images, etc.) to a folder. In “preferences,” searchers can change page layout, choose citation format, enter an email address to send documents to, and more. “Help” offers tutorials, and links to EBSCOconnect for technical assistance, and provides a list of useful topics.

Numerous searches on a variety of subjects and topics yielded satisfactory results. Selecting “publications” and then searching “Downbeat” reveals bibliographic records from January 1, 1984, to the present, with coverage dating back to 1972. A basic search for “Pavarotti” yielded about 980 articles. Narrowing the search to full-text, peer-reviewed articles winnowed results down to only two citations. A search for “Beyoncé” found 1,803 citations, with 1,307 full-text articles.

The database’s simplicity and multiple features make for a seamless and productive experience. All search requests regardless of subject matter are retrieved quickly and intuitively, yielding a variety of articles from which to choose, and narrowing searches is a breeze.

PRICING Cost for academic institutions is based on an array of factors including but not limited to FTE (full-time employment), existing EBSCO databases, consortium agreements, and/or buying groups. It is best to contact EBSCO for a customized quotation for your specific library. Fees are subject to change based on royalty requirements and other factors.

VERDICT Music Index with Full Text continues the EBSCO tradition of providing quality databases with useful features, important content, and optimal searchability. The full-text feature makes the database a viable consideration for a wide range of libraries where interest in music runs high, although academic institutions serving music students are the primary audience. Libraries that already subscribe to EBSCO music databases should strongly consider, as this resource expands upon the offerings of those with minimum duplication of full-text journals.

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REFERENCE


This encyclopedia of key terms and issues related to the field of ecology also aims to convince readers of the need to be better stewards of the environment on both a personal and a societal level. In the introduction, editor Heath argues that individuals must consider their actions within a long time frame and seek to interact equitably with the various biocommunities they encounter. Fittingly, the main entries tend toward a more activist bent than one might expect from a reference work. The writing is uneven, and though many entries are informative, many are too brief or incomplete. Space constraints are obvious in a printed encyclopedia, but in some instances the contributors make inadequate use of their allotted space. Moreover, the printing is of poor quality, and the images and figures are rendered in low-resolution grayscale rather than full color. Some of the figures lack captions or in-text mentions and are situated on the page without context. The list of contributors provides no affiliations or personal information about the authors or editor. Finally, it seems that several useful sections were removed, as Heath mentions in her introduction the following components that are actually absent: biographies of key figures, a time line of American environmentalism, a glossary, and a bibliography.

VERDICT This volume may prove of some interest to the general public or high school students but is an otherwise middling effort of substandard value to most library collections.—Stephen Buss, Ursinus Coll., Collegeville, PA

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