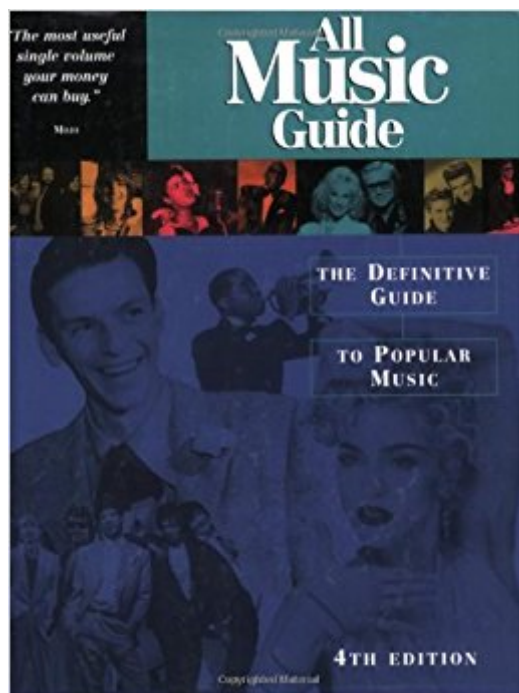


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# All Music Guide: The Definitive Guide To Popular Music, 4th Edition



## Synopsis

From folk to avant-garde to world music, this fun-to-browse book easily guides readers to more than 20,000 great recordings by over 4,000 artists through thorough reviews and ratings. Arranged by genre (the book covers 16 styles in all), each section provides informed essays on how the music evolved and its various styles, intriguing artist biographies, and insightful reviews and ratings of the top recordings. The lives and work of major artists are described in depth. Easy-to-read "music maps" chart the development of each genre, its key players, and their influences. Now in its fourth edition, this authoritative reference highlights "essential collection" albums as well as "first purchase" recordings to help listeners buy CDs. Nearly 1,500 info-packed pages!"Makes you delirious with knowledge."- Entertainment Weekly"The most useful single volume your money can buy."- Mojo

## Book Information

Paperback: 1400 pages

Publisher: Backbeat Books; 4 edition (November 19, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0879306270

ISBN-13: 978-0879306274

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 2.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #903,533 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes > Music](#) #1048 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Music](#) #1382 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

Given the comprehensiveness, popularity, and timeliness of the free All Music Guide web site ([www.allmusic.com](http://www.allmusic.com)), one wonders whether an abridged print version is needed. Still, it's hard to ignore the pleasures of browsing this highly entertaining tome, now in its fourth edition, which provides guidance on the best music from virtually all popular (i.e., nonclassical) genres. Over 20,000 albums and 4000 artists are represented from the worlds of rock, blues, country, jazz, rap, folk, gospel, reggae, avant-garde, and more. The book is arranged into 16 genre chapters, each beginning with an overview of the genre and its various subgenres or "styles." (Tabs on the page

edges would have facilitated thumbing to a particular genre.) Artists are listed alphabetically within each chapter, making the comprehensive index crucial for determining the genre under which an artist is listed. Unfortunately, the index is off by a few pages for artists in the fourth chapter (Gospel) through the end. Each artist entry includes vital statistics, styles played, a biographical sketch, and a selective list of albums. All albums are rated from one to five stars, with additional symbols denoting recommended first purchases and albums that are essential representations of a genre. Signed reviews from scores of contributors accompany the most significant titles. (Beware: an album's rating and review do not always jibe. Also, ratings and reviews in the book may differ from those found on the web site for the same album.) Other features include music maps (a sort of family tree outlining the history and key artists of a genre or style) and sidebar articles on topics such as Caribbean music styles and English and Celtic folk instruments. While still selective, the All Music guides (there are also separate volumes on rock, jazz, blues, country, and electronica) tend to provide more detail and analysis of an artist's oeuvre than the MusicHound, Rough Guide, and Rolling Stone tomes. All in all, patrons are better off using the truly comprehensive web site, but this is the best of the print sources. Recommended. Lloyd Jansen, Stockton-San Joaquin Cty. P.L., CACopyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Founded in 1947, Hal Leonard Corporation has become the worlds largest print music publisher, representing some of the greatest songwriters and artists of all time. We are proud to publish titles of interest to all musicians as well as music lovers, from songbooks and instructional titles to artist biographies and instrument price guides to books about the music industry and all the performing arts.

This book is the music enthusiast's dream come true. If you love all genres, and you like your information all in one spot, this is the book to turn to. I'm a huge fan, so I bought this book for myself, but my brother works in the industry and says that this is his go-to book for all things popular music and beyond.

This is a thick heavy volume. Yes, it's easier to look things up on the internet these days, but the depth of info provided by this reference guide is hard to beat. Got a good deal on it too.

There are so many books on so much of the recording industry that it is difficult to find it all in one place. This book is, in my opinion, a relevant and necessary resource for anyone wanting to know

about the history of popular music in the United States,

good book for those who like different kinds of music to prioritize buying. If you like to listen to different kinds of music I would recommend.

Bought this as a gift for a friend, she likes it but several of her favorites were not included in the book. Disappointment for both of us.

All kinds of music ratings.

All Music Guide: The Definitive Guide To Popular Music, 4th Edition Opinions about this book will vary greatly, depending upon expectations and personal preferences; HOWEVER, do not buy it without having reviewed its Table of Contents. It may show what you expected to find, but it also may surprise you. That, I think, is the most important thing that can be said about this book. Hopefully, you will heed this warning, but for those who can't be bothered, here are the sections and the pages in each section: Rock-466, Rap-33, Blues-88, Gospel-38, Country-100, Bluegrass-25, Folk Music-73, Celtic and British Isles-31, Cajun-18, World Music-78, Reggae-44, Soundtracks-10, Vocal Music-53, Easy Listening-14, Avant Garde-81, Jazz-85. [Note: Small type: about twenty-nine letters per inch]. As for me, I regret spending over \$30 for this book and will now be heading to the library to find a book that covers "Popular Music" music as I understand the term. Finally, you might check out the publisher's website ([...]). I haven't thoroughly checked it, but it does give a fair treatment (for a non-specialist) of an artist I am particularly interested in who doesn't even appear in this book. You might also consider buying a used copy for \$0.01 plus shipping. I know it sounds like a scam, but I have now bought several books through for a penny each, and there was absolutely no deception of any kind. How and why they do it, I don't know or understand, but they do. What can you lose? I had to rewrite my review after rereading the description and the comments. They do make clear that this book is about much more than the types of songs that appeared on "Your Hit Parade" (Radio/TV 1935-1959). Nevertheless, I still think that a perusal of the contents before buying would be in order.

For anyone who wants to build a collection of the best popular music on CD this is a really useful guide. The Editorial Review (above) gives you a good guide to the structure of the book, so I won't repeat that. The digital revolution, with a great deal of music now readily available in a lightweight

compact format has created a new dilemma--what to buy. An artist you like, say Diana Ross or Miles Davis, might have sixty or a hundred albums listed in a catalog or on a Web site. If you wanted to build a music collection that contained just one example of their best work, which of these would you buy? This book will help you make that decision and, most importantly, help you avoid buying duds that you will later regret. The question has been raised as to whether this book is necessary, as the Web site version is fuller, not to mention free. I guess that answer to that is that it depends on what you want it for. The book is a handy reference that you can read in bed, in the bathroom, take with you to the music store, read on the beach etc. So you don't have to buy it, but if do want a print version, here it is. It would also be (or is) a valuable reference work for any library, radio station, print publication, or as a starting point for anyone doing any kind of research into popular music. I imagine that it would also be indispensable for anyone who purchases music for any kind of musical library or collection. It probably isn't so great if you want information on recently released music. After all, it takes a while for an initial critical evaluation to take root. Just consider how many Grammy winning or best selling albums start to look quite shabby once the initial acclaim wears off. Where is M.T. Hammer now? But for a survey of the whole library of recorded popular music, you can't beat it.

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