

the new grove dictionary of music and musicians

the new grove dictionary of music and musicians stands as one of the most comprehensive and authoritative reference works in the field of musicology. This monumental dictionary offers extensive coverage of musical terms, biographies of composers and performers, detailed descriptions of musical instruments, and in-depth treatments of musical genres and styles. First published in the late 19th century and continually updated, the New Grove Dictionary has evolved to reflect the latest scholarship and developments in music. Its relevance spans across academic research, music education, and professional musicianship, making it an indispensable resource. This article explores the history, structure, content, and significance of the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, highlighting its role in the study and appreciation of music worldwide.

- History and Evolution of the New Grove Dictionary
- Structure and Content Overview
- Editorial Approach and Contributors
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History and Evolution of the New Grove Dictionary

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians traces its origins to the original Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, first published in 1879. Named after the English musicologist George Grove, the dictionary was initially designed to provide a comprehensive and scholarly reference for musicians and music lovers. Over the decades, the dictionary underwent numerous revisions, expansions, and reorganizations to keep pace with changes in music and scholarship.

Early Editions and Development

The first edition consisted of four volumes and was notable for its rigorous approach to music history and biographies. Subsequent editions expanded the scope and depth of entries, incorporating new research and covering a broader range of musical traditions beyond Western classical music. The dictionary became a standard reference in libraries and universities around the world.

The Transition to the New Grove Dictionary

In 1980, the dictionary was rebranded as the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians with a major overhaul that increased the number of volumes and included contributions from hundreds of scholars internationally. This edition set a new benchmark for accuracy and scholarly detail, incorporating contemporary musicology and ethnomusicology.

Structure and Content Overview

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians is organized to facilitate easy access to a wealth of musical knowledge. It contains thousands of articles that cover a diverse array of topics related to music, including individual biographies, musical forms, historical periods, instruments, and performance practices.

Biographical Entries

Biographies in the dictionary cover composers, performers, conductors, musicologists, and other significant figures in music history. Each entry provides detailed information on an individual's life, works, influence, and critical reception, supported by authoritative references.

Thematic and Topical Articles

Beyond biographies, the dictionary includes extensive thematic articles that explore musical genres, theory, notation, and cultural contexts. These entries provide readers with background knowledge essential for understanding the broader scope of music as an art form and cultural practice.

Musical Instruments and Terminology

Detailed descriptions of musical instruments, their construction, history, and usage are featured prominently. The dictionary also defines musical terms and concepts, making it a valuable tool for both students and professionals seeking clarity on technical language.

List of Key Content Categories

- Composers and musicians' biographies
- Musical genres and styles

- History of music periods and movements
- Musical instruments and organology
- Music theory and analysis
- Performance practices and traditions
- Ethnomusicology and world music

Editorial Approach and Contributors

The editorial philosophy of the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians emphasizes scholarly rigor, inclusivity, and comprehensiveness. Its editorial board comprises leading experts in various fields of musicology who oversee the selection and revision of entries to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Role of Expert Contributors

Hundreds of contributors from around the globe, including renowned musicologists, performers, and historians, collaborate on the dictionary. Their expertise ensures that entries reflect current research and diverse perspectives, making the dictionary a dynamic and authoritative resource.

Revision and Updating Process

The dictionary undergoes regular revisions to incorporate new findings and emerging areas of musical study. This ongoing editorial process maintains the dictionary's status as an up-to-date and reliable reference for both traditional and contemporary music topics.

Impact on Music Scholarship and Education

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians has had a profound influence on music scholarship, pedagogy, and research. Its exhaustive coverage and meticulous scholarship make it a foundational resource for academic studies in musicology and related disciplines.

Role in Academic Research

Researchers and scholars rely on the dictionary for accurate data, bibliographies, and contextual

information essential to musicological inquiry. The dictionary's authoritative voice helps guide critical analysis and supports the development of new music scholarship.

Use in Music Education

Music educators and students utilize the dictionary as a primary reference for learning about musical history, theory, and repertoire. Its clear, well-organized entries aid in curriculum development and deepen students' understanding of music as an evolving art form.

Influence on Performance Practice

Performers and conductors consult the dictionary to gain insights into historical contexts, stylistic nuances, and interpretative traditions. This knowledge enhances the authenticity and expressiveness of musical performances.

Digital Access and Modern Editions

With advances in digital technology, the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians has transitioned from its traditional print format to accessible online platforms. This modernization has expanded its reach and usability for contemporary users.

Online Editions and Features

The digital versions of the dictionary offer searchable databases, multimedia content, and regular updates that print editions cannot match. Online access enables users worldwide to explore the dictionary's vast resources conveniently and efficiently.

Integration with Other Music Resources

The New Grove Dictionary is often integrated with other music databases and academic tools, providing comprehensive research environments. This synergy supports interdisciplinary studies and enriches the user experience.

Advantages of Digital Access

- Instant searchability of articles and terms

- Regular content updates and revisions
- Access to audio and video supplements
- Cross-referencing with related musicological resources
- Improved accessibility for educational institutions and individuals

Frequently Asked Questions

What is The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians?

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians is a comprehensive reference work covering all aspects of music and musicians, widely regarded as one of the most authoritative sources in the field.

Who publishes The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians?

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians is published by Oxford University Press.

When was the first edition of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians released?

The first edition was published in 1980, building upon earlier Grove music dictionaries dating back to the late 19th century.

How often is The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians updated?

The dictionary is periodically updated with new editions and supplements to incorporate the latest research and developments in music scholarship.

Is The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians available online?

Yes, The New Grove Dictionary is available as an online resource through Oxford Music Online, providing searchable access to its extensive content.

What types of topics are covered in The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians?

It covers a wide range of topics including biographies of composers and performers, musical instruments, genres, theory, history, and ethnomusicology.

Who are the typical contributors to The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians?

Contributors are expert musicologists, scholars, and specialists from around the world who write articles based on extensive research.

How can students and researchers benefit from using The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians?

It provides reliable, scholarly information and in-depth articles that serve as essential references for academic research, study, and teaching in music.

What distinguishes The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians from other music encyclopedias?

Its breadth, scholarly rigor, and regularly updated content make it the most comprehensive and respected music reference work globally.

Are there specialized versions or supplements of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians?

Yes, there are supplements and related works such as *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera* and *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz* that focus on specific music areas.

Additional Resources

1. The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians: A Comprehensive Guide to Music History and Theory

This foundational reference work offers an exhaustive overview of music history, theory, and practice from the medieval period to the present day. It covers biographies of composers, performers, and scholars, alongside detailed entries on musical instruments, genres, and terminology. Renowned for its scholarly depth, it serves as an essential resource for musicians, musicologists, and students alike.

2. Music in the 20th Century: Insights from the New Grove Dictionary

Drawing extensively on entries from the New Grove Dictionary, this book explores the diverse musical movements and innovations of the 20th century. It highlights key composers, genres, and technological advances that shaped contemporary music. Readers gain a nuanced understanding of the century's cultural and artistic transformations in music.

3. Women in Music: Contributions Highlighted in the New Grove Dictionary

This volume celebrates the achievements and influence of women musicians throughout history, as documented in the New Grove Dictionary. It includes profiles of composers, performers, and educators who broke barriers in the male-dominated field of music. The book also discusses the evolving role of women in music across different cultures and time periods.

4. The Evolution of Musical Instruments: Perspectives from the New Grove Dictionary

Focusing on the development and classification of musical instruments, this book uses the New Grove

Dictionary as a primary reference. It covers the origins, construction, and cultural significance of instruments from around the world. Detailed illustrations and historical context enrich the reader's appreciation of instrumental music.

5. Genres and Styles: A New Grove Dictionary Approach to Musical Diversity

This book provides an in-depth look at the wide array of musical genres and styles documented in the New Grove Dictionary. From classical and jazz to folk and electronic music, it examines the characteristics and historical development of each genre. The work serves as a valuable guide for understanding the global landscape of music.

6. Biography and Legacy: Composers Featured in the New Grove Dictionary

Centered on the lives and legacies of prominent composers, this book draws from biographical entries in the New Grove Dictionary. It offers insights into their creative processes, influences, and historical impact. The book is ideal for readers interested in the personal stories behind great musical works.

7. Ethnomusicology Through the Lens of the New Grove Dictionary

This volume explores the field of ethnomusicology with reference to the New Grove Dictionary's extensive coverage of world music traditions. It discusses methodologies, cultural contexts, and the role of music in societies globally. The book encourages a deeper understanding of music as a cultural phenomenon.

8. Music Theory and Analysis: Concepts from the New Grove Dictionary

Offering a scholarly yet accessible examination of music theory, this book uses the New Grove Dictionary as a foundational source. It covers fundamental concepts such as harmony, counterpoint, rhythm, and form, providing examples from various musical periods. Ideal for students and educators, it bridges theory with practical analysis.

9. Musical Performance Practice: Insights from the New Grove Dictionary

This book investigates historical and contemporary approaches to musical performance, drawing on detailed entries from the New Grove Dictionary. Topics include interpretation, technique, and the evolution of performance traditions across different cultures. It serves as a valuable resource for performers and scholars interested in the art of music-making.

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