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[Review of] Grove Music Online

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[Review of] **Grove Music Online**

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Internet Resource

Grove music online. Oxford. Annual subscription starts at \$1,350.00 for one user or \$1,695.00 for unlimited access

Internet Resource. <http://www.grovemusic.com/>

[Visited Nov'05] Launched in 2001, *Grove Music Online* (GMO) includes the full text of *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2nd ed. (*Grove II*), ed. by S. S. Grove (CH, Jul'01, 38-5906); *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*, ed. by S. Sadie (CH, Jul'93, 30-5942); *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*, 2nd ed., ed. by B. K. Grove (CH, Mar' 02, 39-3708); and *The Norton/Grove Dictionary of Women Composers*, ed. by J. A. Sadie and R. Samuel (CH, Apr'96, 33-4266), as well as additions and revisions (date-stamped). Laura Macy (editor since 2003) guides the evolving online incarnation of this classic resource, which provides biographical coverage of 22,000 composers, writers, and performers, as well as terminology and topical essays, in over 55,000 articles. A prominent search box on each page employs a complex comparative search using six criteria, beginning with exact title matches and ending in "pattern expansions" that attempt to find variant spellings. This method can foil searches for "George Harrison"; they will be stopped at the title entry for "Edwards, George (Harrison)." A full-text advanced search for "George Harrison" does locate 12 articles that mention the late Beatle.

Other advanced search options include biographies, bibliographies, links, contributors, and works. "Explore" options, which provide chronological and topical lists, cover biographies and research resources. One may also browse A-Z lists by, e.g., articles' titles, or view a general index. Cross-references within articles are exiguous (e.g., the "Alternative Music" entry links to "grunge" but not to Velvet Underground or avant-garde). Within each article, a navigation bar links (when available) to illustrations, sound, related articles, external links, an article search, and, in "Opera" articles, to the performance database *Operabase* (CH, Sup'97, 34Sup-048). The article search is useful for longer articles (as is the clickable table of contents on the left), but it can be idiosyncratic: within the "Trumpet" article, a search for "rock" finds "vibrate" and "swing" acceptable variants. Nonmatched searches are displayed in the advanced full-text search, where a modified search is unexpectedly performed in the entire database rather than within the article.

Some 600 sound links require the free Sibelius Scorch plug-in to play notated examples. Some illustrations can be viewed and manipulated using another free plug-in, the 3D Viewpoint Media Player. Articles can be printed or emailed a page at a time only. Updates occur three to four times a year, which should allow for corrections, but errors noted in the *Grove II* review are still evident. The site (and plug-ins) works well in current Windows browsers, but Macintosh users cannot use article search in IE or Safari, or the 3D plug-in in any browser. GMO continues to expand its incredible breadth and modernize its approach to content and access, yet sound and searching enhancements would greatly improve this significant resource. In the meantime, users can freely access *AMG All-Music Guide* (CH, Sup'05, 42Sup-0142) for coverage of popular music and high-quality sound excerpts from a full spectrum of recorded music. Other quality sound resources are commercially available, including *Classical Music Library* (CH, Jun'04, 41-5623) and *Smithsonian Global Sound* (CH, Jan'06, 43-2554). **Summing Up:** Recommended. All levels.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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