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[Review of] Grove Music Online

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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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