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Gray (director of the Black Arts Research Center, Nyack, New York, and author of several other bibliographies, including Blacks in Classical Music (CH Dec'88), has provided superb coverage of the literature concerning the "new jazz" period. With more than 7,100 unannotated entries, he updates and surpasses both Eddie Meadows's Jazz Reference and Research Materials (CH Mar'82) and Bernhard Hefele's Jazz-bibliography (1981). Meadows covers earlier periods well, and Hefele is good for European material, but Gray's work covers both American and European works on the period nearly comprehensively. Materials include books, dissertations, periodicals, newspapers, films, videos, audiotapes; most are in English or French but there are a number in other major Western languages. Concert and record reviews are included for major artists only. Six major sections include a detailed chronology, African American cultural history and the arts, general works and country and regional studies, jazz collectives and cooperative record labels, jazz lofts, and biographical and critical studies of more than 400 individual artists and ensembles (this last providing 80% of the bulk of the work). Appendixes cite reference works consulted, identify archives and research centers, and give country and instrument lists of "new jazz" artists. The cross-references and indexes (artist, subject, and author) provide detailed access, but do include many unsubdivided entries. No discographies are provided, but useful discographies are cited. A solid contribution to jazz research. Both public and academic libraries.

—R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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Related Article

REFERENCE – Humanities
Gray, John

Baila!: a bibliographic guide to Afro–Latin dance musics from mambo to salsa
Choice September 2013 51:51-0016; doi:10.5860/CHOICE.51-0016

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