1990


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This fourth annual supplement to the cumulated revision of Popular Music (see ARBA 86, entry 1281) adds 500 titles to its coverage of American popular songs. The alphabetical title entries include alternate titles, countries of origin (if outside the United States), lyricists, composers, current publishers, copyright dates, and very brief annotations usually providing the source of the work (e.g., album or film title). Cross-references direct users to the preferred title entries or to listings of songs in earlier volumes of the set. An introductory essay surveys the music of 1988. Indexes list lyricists, composers, albums, movies, musicals, television shows, performers, and Grammy and Academy Award nominations and winners. The bulk of the titles come from pop, rock, and country albums, with some coverage of folk and alternative music. A list of publishers and addresses concludes the work. Selection is ultimately arbitrary, but almost all songs that made a lasting impression during the year are included. Data are usually accurate (although Edie Brickell & New Bohemians are from Dallas, not England). The additional indexing—the performer category, for example, was added in 1986—is central to the value of this work; one hopes Pollock adds these categories to respective indexing of the earlier volumes. This work is a valuable tool that is broader-based than the various trade publications such as Billboard.—ROBERT AKEN