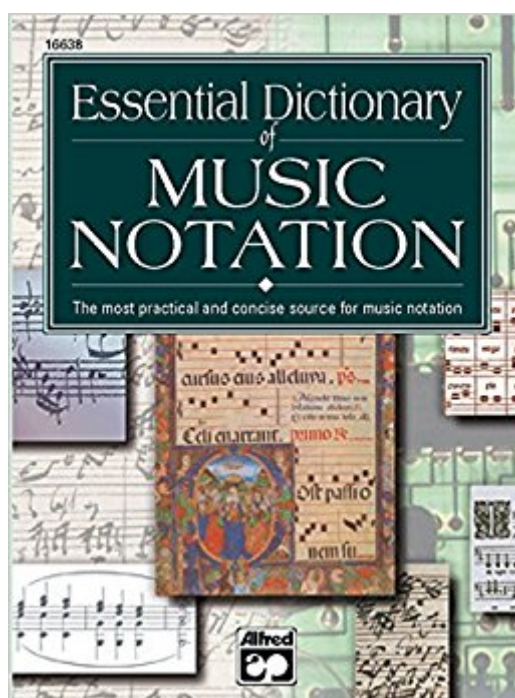


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Essential Dictionary Of Music Notation: Pocket Size Book (Essential Dictionary Series)



Synopsis

This pocket-sized dictionary presents current and correct notation practices in an easy-to-use format. Generously illustrated and concise, this book is essential to any musician looking for a handy reference for the correct notation of music. A most welcome and beneficial source for every musician, whether using a pencil or a computer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a useful, short dictionary, probably worth its modest price. It is by no means a complete reference work on music notation. Instead, it covers most of the basics, and also a more-or-less random, small selection of less basic topics. This is not a guide for reading music; it is a handbook for people preparing notated scores and parts, whether by hand or by computer. It is unlikely to answer all the questions that would come up in notating any reasonably complicated piece of music. It will suffice, however, to notate a simple piece professionally, in either classical or pop/jazz style. All of the entries accurately describe standard notational practice. Precise guidance is often given as to exact positioning and size, e.g. whether a given articulation is centered on a note stem or a note head, what angle of beam to use for different intervals, and where to place dots. The sections on topics like meter, rests, slurs, and ties are lucid and thorough. On the other hand, precise guidance is often absent. For example, correct notation of the treble and bass clefs requires knowing that they are also, respectively, a "G" and an "F" clef, and should be positioned in a specific way to mark

those pitches. The entry on "glissando" fails to explain how to notate the precise rhythm of a glissando (in the sense of its duration, and at what point in the measure it ends). The positioning of accidentals in chords of more than 3 notes is explained ambiguously, but not illustrated. No guidance at all is given on how to notate an interval of an altered unison (e.g., a B-flat/B-natural pairing.) Little guidance at all is given on notating wind or percussion parts. By contrast, several pages are given over to repetitive explanations of the various permutations of "D.C./D.S./coda/fine" combinations. Complete charts of key signatures in treble, bass, alto and tenor clefs use up more pages (even though the pattern is the same in every clef.) Oddities like flutter-pedaling on the piano damper and heel-toe technique on the organ pedals are illustrated. Overall, the choices of what to cover outside of the basics have a random feel. Large print is used, which means less material is covered, but subtle details of notation are easily seen.

I keep expecting books like this to be more easily navigated in their Kindle editions. The information you may need is probably here in the book, but it's difficult and "fiddley" to get to it on Kindle. A hard copy would be much better for a reference book of this sort.

This is the best gift for any music student or musician!

So far I have found the explanation for all the notation needed. This is a small book, about the size of a CD jewel case and a little larger than half an inch thick. There is no table of contents. The pages are alphabetical at the top of the page. Starts with accents, accidentals and runs through ornamentation, pedal, fingering, grace notes through triplets to *volti subito*. There is an index of topics on the last page.

This is a nice, pocket edition for my musician daughter. There is nothing outstanding about this version, ...it is just exactly what it states that it is and is ideal for those who are not fond of using an app on a cell phone.

Very helpful guide to notation that comes in handy on my Kindle when I am trying to write a song. Topics are provided alphabetically so you should skip around to find the word you are looking for. Repeats, endings, slurs, key changes, etc...are some I found helpful. The music theory and composition books I have read didn't explain these as well if at all.

As a music educator and concert pianist for most of my life, I would only suggest this for beginning students. If you're serious about music or have studied for three years or more, I would suggest the Schirmer Pocket Manual of Musical Terms (5th edition). Although the Schirmer edition is over 20 years out of date, it includes essential information in advanced orchestration and music theory such as 'Neapolitan sixths' and many other topics not found in this pocket manual. As a music educator, I have always included the study of great composers including contemporary personalities. As an advocate of 20th century serious (classical) music I must admit the Schirmer Company is no longer an advocate of music and composers and like so many other publishers, believes there is no need to update the 1995 edition. I believe every pocket dictionary should include an appendix with brief listings of the major composers of music. When one must spend time penciling in so many new composers and include (sadly) the death of great men of music like Copland and Bill Schumann at least at present, I know of no new editions of pocket music dictionaries. Having said this, if you are a beginner, this small manual does explain all the basics. The index, however, is very lacking and only basic.

About 95% of everything you need to know about the mechanics of score writing are in this book. If you score on computer, much of this is taken care of for you, but as you create final versions you want 'correct', this book is essential for the many manual placement items as well as stylistically being clear to the modern musician. I wish I'd had this 10 years ago. I read this book from cover to cover and learned a lot. It is brief, to-the-point, and doesn't get distracted by addressing theory or orchestration. It's about the notation, pure and simple. The book is small -- fits into your pocket easily. My single complaint is that the binding is rather cheap. I expect sooner or later pages will begin to come loose - an annoyance for a reference text. On the other hand, at under \$10, I guess I can afford to just buy another copy.

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