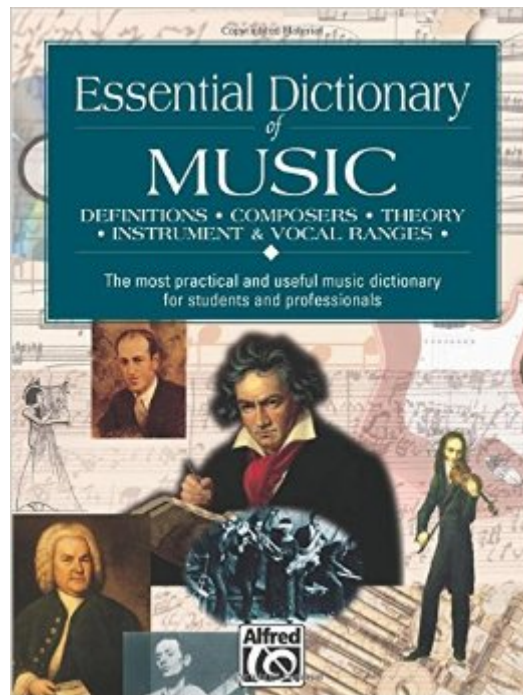


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# Essential Dictionary Of Music: Pocket Size Book (Essential Dictionary Series)



## Synopsis

A useful collection of definitions, composers, and theory. This pocket-sized reference book of over 330 pages includes a broad range of important information, from basic principles of theory and concise biographies of composers to pronunciations of foreign terms and ranges of instruments and voices. This easy-to-use volume covers every major aspect of music.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (42 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is a very useful and helpful book containing practically everything you'll ever need to look up when it comes to basic information about musical instruments, music theory, composers etc. Amongst other things, this book presents and illustrates:- the average ranges for musical instruments and vocalists (basses, tenors, altos, sopranos)- definitions of common English, French, German, Italian, Polish (et al) musical terms and abbreviations.- basic musical theory starting with an introduction to how notes and rests work, how sharps and flats work within different key signatures, and proceeds to things like intervals, scale types, chord types, chord charts, the cycle of fifths, ornaments, dynamic marks, tempo marks, music symbols, repeat signs etc.- basic information about a large amount of composers, such as when and where they were born and musically active and what historical periods they belong to. Over 120 pages of the book presents composers of early music, like Bach, Beethoven and Mozart, but also modern composers like Edgard Varèse, Frank Zappa and Charles Mingus. The book does not include information about any musical groups, it

doesn't illustrate musical examples from any composed music, it doesn't give you tips on what and how to practice on certain instruments, nor does it touch upon topics like instrumental and vocal technique, but everything basic that you should know if you're teaching or studying within the field of music you will find here (for a very low price.)As it reads on the cover of the book: "The most practical and useful dictionary for students and professionals - over 330 pages of comprehensive music information."Add "basic" to the last sentence and the statement is 100% accurate....the fact that the book is small, and therefore easy to carry with you anywhere, makes it great.

**DON'T BUY THE KINDLE VERSION!** Don't get me wrong. I've owned this magnificent little dictionary in its paperback form for several years. It's well worn now, with lots of notes I've added over time. The book itself is 5 stars. I carry it in my backpack to all my music classes, and refer to it daily in my own work.I was delighted to find it was available in a Kindle version. I also carry my Kindle with me everywhere, so I thought I would add this book to the Kindle and retire my paperback. But there's a HUGE problem with the Kindle version: it's not indexed for searching. That means there's no way to go to any particular term in the dictionary. "Moderato" is in the middle of the book. You can't search for it, so the only way to find its definition is to laboriously page one at a time through half the book. Ouch. That's a fatal flaw for any dictionary on Kindle. The Kindle version of this book has 0 stars--it's essentially unusable. I just returned the book to for a credit, and selected "Product Defect" for my reason.Too bad, too. I really love this little book. (sigh)

This is very handy while giving lessons, as I can reach just behind the piano's music rack and check something or read it aloud with the student. Also can make great gifts for students. The cover is glossy and presentable. Seems pretty durable after a year of use. The definitions are short but if you need more you can always buy a second more unwieldy copy for the bookshelf. Sometimes musicians can't be hassled with getting up from the piano for even a moment. What a ridiculous concept! I keep it with two sharpened pencils and my award stickers.

I am a piano player, but it's been many years since I took lessons and have forgotten what many of the symbols, etc. mean. My neighbor has this book which she got from her piano teacher. I was delighted to find one for myself through .

....I'm a Music Major in college, and I will soon be a band director....this product is very useful because it helps me further understand the terms I've known and have never seen before....it also

has instrument and vocal ranges for whenever I compose a piece for Band or Choir....the only thing I wish it had was a fingering chart for all instruments

This is a nice little POCKET SIZED reference book. It is divided into sections  
First Page - Table of Contents  
Page 4 - Abbreviations - abbreviations of languages used in the book. ex. Eng for English  
Page 4 Pronunciations - pronunciations of vowels and consonants used in the book  
SECTION 1-Page 7 through 148 Definitions of common musical terms listed alphabetically - such as "a capella"  
SECTION 2-Pages 151 through 274 Composers listed alphabetically with their birth and death dates, historical period (ex. Romantic period), Compositional media (ex. Opera), Important items (such as notable works)  
SECTION 3-Theory-Pages 277 through 314 - notes, time signatures, scales, etc  
SECTION 4-Instrument & Vocal ranges (ex. flute from middle c to c above the staff)  
I think it is very comprehensive as a small reference. The complaints on the reviews seem to be based on three things  
1) The Kindle edition has problems (most of the complaints)- get the hard copy  
2) One person complained about a couple of typographical errors. All books have typographical errors!  
3) It doesn't list ALL the composers or ALL music theory, etc. But I guess it isn't thousands of pages long. A Pocket dictionary is not going to have everything possible! Some people just expect the impossible!  
For what it is it is an excellent reference. A music student who carries this in his case will find everything he needs to know. This book does what it is supposed to do. I say wake up folks. These reviews are supposed to be reviewing the PRODUCT!

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