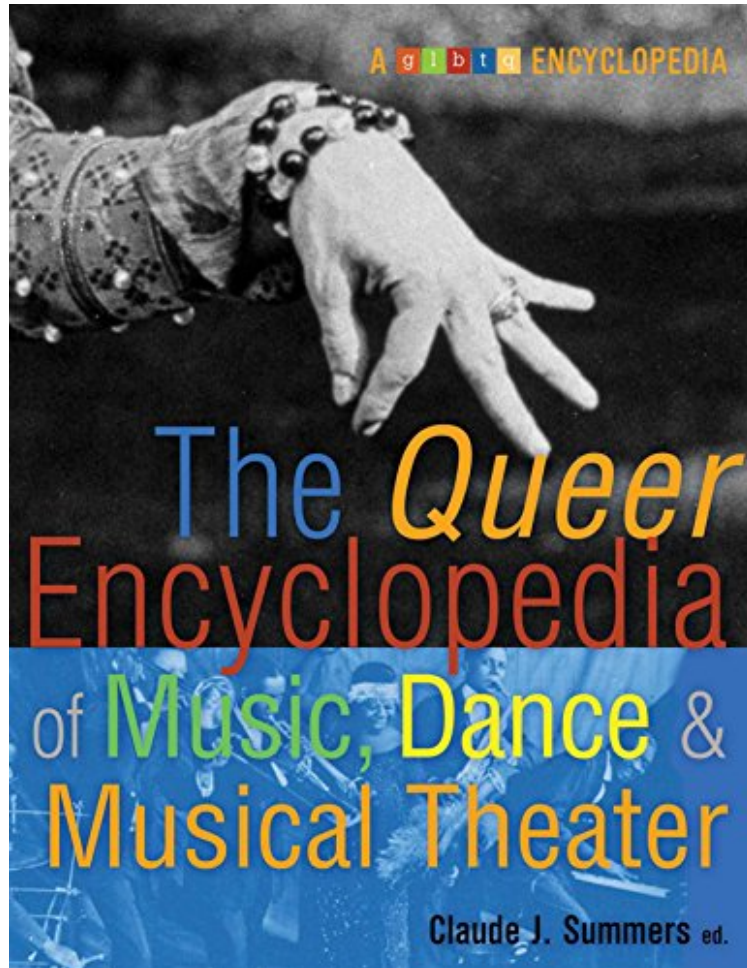


The Queer Encyclopedia of Music, Dance, and Musical Theater

From Cleis Press

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From Cleis Press : The Queer Encyclopedia of Music, Dance, and Musical Theater before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Queer Encyclopedia of Music, Dance, and Musical Theater:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting information.By Bernardene Van EppsI was surprised that I enjoyed what I read. This book was very informative and could be used for references.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Who is? Who was?By Richard B. GreenThere's a lot covered here; it will make for fascinating reading.

Aficionados of music, dance, opera, and musical theater will relish this volume featuring over 200 articles showcasing composers, singers, musicians, dancers, and choreographers across eras and styles. Read about Hildegard of Bingen, whose Symphonia expressed both spiritual and physical desire for the Virgin Mary, and George Frideric Handel, who not only created roles for castrati but was behind the Venetian opera's preoccupations with gender ambiguity. Discover

Alban Berg's Lulu, opera's first openly lesbian character. And don't forget Kiss Me Kate, the hit 1948 Broadway musical: written by Cole Porter, married though openly gay; directed by John C. Wilson, Noel Coward's ex-lover; and featuring Harold Lang, who had affairs with Leonard Bernstein and Gore Vidal. No single volume has ever achieved the breadth of this scholarly yet eminently readable compendium. It includes overviews of genres as well as fascinating biographical entries on hundreds of figures such as Peter Tchaikovsky, Maurice Ravel, Sergei Diaghilev, Bessie Smith, Aaron Copland, Stephen Sondheim, Alvin Ailey, Rufus Wainwright, and Ani DiFranco.

From Booklist Readers will find it difficult to put this book down. The editor clearly states that it "has no pretensions to comprehensiveness" but is intended to be "an important beginning, not an end"--and what a wonderful beginning it is! The volume covers primarily the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, and the subjects included are predominately, though certainly not exclusively, North American and Western European. Little Richard and Tchaikovsky, Dusty Springfield and Dame Ethel Smyth, Hildegard of Bingen and Cris Williamson, Maud Allan and Rudolf Nureyev, disco and vaudeville, divas and directors: all may be found here. It's easy to negotiate the more than 200 alphabetically organized, signed entries and essays throughout the text. An A-Z list of entries is provided, as are two very helpful indexes. A topical index will prove extremely useful to people searching for broad categories, such as AIDS, and Drag shows and performers. Also, the well-developed index of names, located at the end of the book, assists in locating all sorts of diverse individuals who do not have separate entries: Condoleezza Rice (in the entry Van Cliburn) is an example. Entries average half to three-quarters of a page, sometimes longer. The essays may extend for multiple pages and flesh out larger topics, such as conductors and Set and costume design. For example, the subtopics "Composers and Lyricists," "The Broadway Diva," "Representations of Gay Characters," "Musicals Written for Gay Audiences," "The Revue," and "Musical Films" are all found within the entry Musical theater and film. The encyclopedia belongs in public libraries of all sizes, and it will be welcomed by students in high-school libraries, where it will be quietly, if not openly, read. Scottie Wallace Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "Indispensible for aficionados." -- Out Magazine About the Author Claude J. Summers, Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at the University of Michigan Dearborn, is the editor of The Queer Encyclopedia of the Visual Arts and The Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage. The general editor of glbtq.com, he lives in New Orleans.