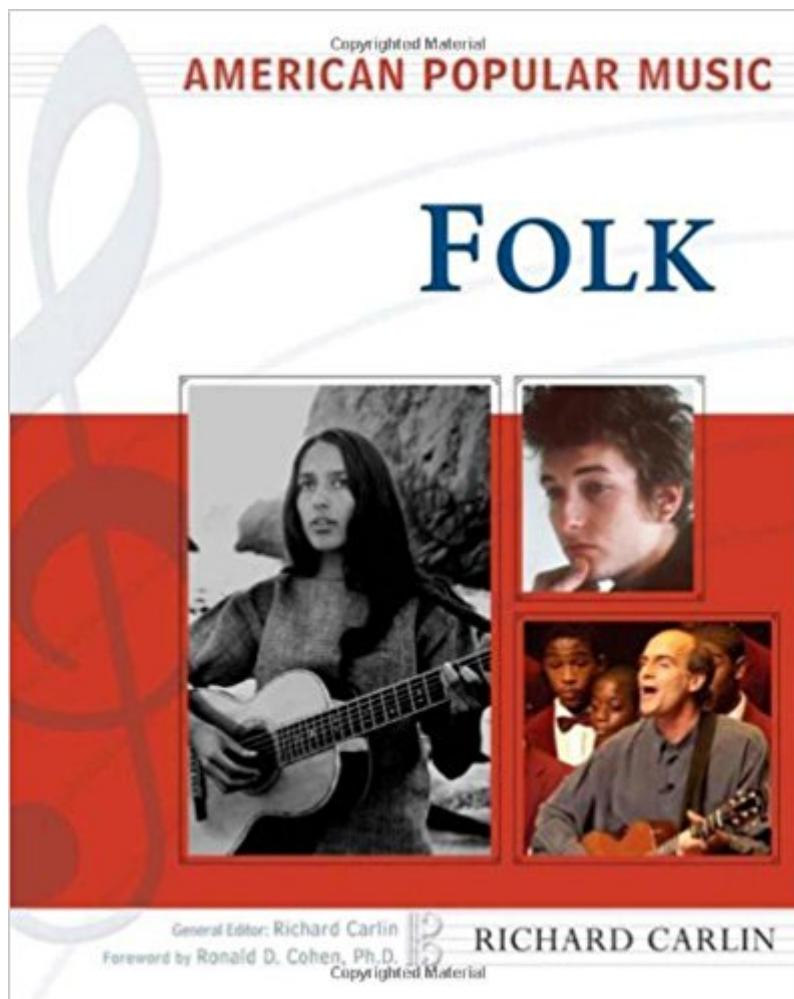


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Folk (American Popular Music)



Synopsis

American popular music reflects a rich cultural diversity. From Aaron Copland to Miles Davis to Elvis Presley to Muddy Waters, the United States has produced some of the most influential and beloved musicians and performers of the 20th century. The blues, jazz, and rock and roll - musical genres loved around the world - were born here, and American composers, producers, singers, and songwriters have crafted a unique heritage in other genres such as classical and folk. American Popular Music, a new eight-volume set, celebrates American music by presenting a wealth of information on seven major musical branches. Each comprehensive book provides the perfect, one-stop starting point for research in each musical field.

Book Information

Series: American Popular Music

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Customer Reviews

Folk is a volume in the Facts On File American Popular Music set, which also includes the volumes Blues, Classical, Country, Jazz, Rhythm and Blues, Rock and Roll, and a comprehensive index. This set is designed to provide concise information on genres of music important to U.S. culture, and is written for readers from grades nine and up. The Folk volume includes approximately 400 entries cover personalities, key performances and events, recordings, musical instruments, essential publications in each genre, hit songs, historical and social issues, recording companies, and organizations. Entries are arranged alphabetically, are 100 to 500 words long, and are cross-referenced. Users will also find a selection of photographs of performers, composers, or musical instruments. Unfortunately, there are only about 55 photographs, and the targeted audience

would benefit from far more--at least photos of all of the artists covered. The appendixes are a chronology of major events arranged by year, a list of selected recordings to supplement the reading, a short selection of Web sites, and DVD and video recordings. Carlin ends the book with a glossary of musical terms and a list of further readings. The listings for Web sites should have been more inclusive of music downloads and podcasts for the genres, considering the numbers of iPods or MP3 players sold each year to the intended audience. While the series is supposedly about American popular music, Folk does include artists from Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. There is much information on the work of folklorists such as John and Alan Lomax, and the book reflects the diversity of the genre by including articles on klezmer music and corridos, as well as the protest tradition. Since folk music appears to be growing in popularity and attracting audiences of all ages, this and other volumes in the set would be a welcome yet not essential purchase for secondary-school and public libraries. Lisa JohnstonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Richard Carlin is the author of several books on folk, country, and traditional music. He worked for Folkways Records as an independent producer from 1975 to 1980, and is currently Executive Editor for Music at Pearson Prentice Hall. He lives in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. Robert M. Lichtman, a Washington lawyer for nearly thirty years, has practiced in San Francisco since 1986. Ronald D. Cohen is a professor emeritus of history at Indiana University Northwest and is a past president of the Historians of American Communism.

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