others representing this genre: Sousa, Foster, Copland, and Bernstein. Without a clear discussion of inclusion criteria, there is no way to know why they made the cut while other contemporary composers of similar music did not.

Of course, this is not to say that the musicians who are included do not merit the coverage; however, in a resource of this size and scope, readers should be able to assume that careful, systematic planning drives the selection process. When that process is not explained and questions about omissions cannot be answered, the entries seem haphazard.

That said, there are some interesting articles in the set. Topical entries such as “Cheerleading Music,” “Astronaut Music,” and “Soap Opera Music” provide thoughtful commentary on the music specific to these aspects of American culture. Yet, would the average reader think to look for those topics? It is perhaps here where the e-book, and the ability to search by keyword, might provide more avenues of discovery for the user.

Priced at over $400, this is an expensive set. Libraries that already have access to Grove Music Online, and/or Larkin’s Encyclopedia of Popular Music (Oxford University Press, 2006) would be wise to find another use for the money. As a reference librarian, the content is too unpredictable for me to use regularly. Bottom line: If I’m not sure what it covers (and maybe more importantly, what it does not), I’ll go to another source first. Not recommended. —Kristina Lampe Shanton, Music Librarian, Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York


Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are a sensitive subject, and thus, talking about them can be embarrassing. However, because many sexually transmitted diseases are asymptomatic, by the time they are detected they can cause serious health problems such as “infertility, or liver disease, or cervical cancer” (xxv). The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in the United States is high. According to the US National Institutes of Health, one in six Americans is already infected with genital herpes, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we have more that 1.1 million Americans living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)(xxv).

Sexually Transmitted Disease: An Encyclopedia of Diseases, Prevention, Treatment and Issues is a two-volume set that contains over 230 entries. These entries span the history and wide range of topics regarding sexually transmitted diseases. This encyclopedia set takes a multidisciplinary approach in its coverage of sexually transmitted diseases. Along with the anatomy and basics of the disease, it also addresses the emotional, financial, and social implications as well as pharmacology used to treat the disease and legal implications of disease transmission. The first volume begins with a STD timeline that dates back to 400BC. Where appropriate, entries include a case study that “demonstrates a common scenario in today’s medical climate” (xxi). Each entry ends with sources for additional research.

Most published works on sexually transmitted diseases focus on one disease or one aspect of the disease, such as treatment. For this reason it was difficult to compare Sexually Transmitted Disease: An Encyclopedia of Diseases, Prevention, Treatment and Issues to other sources. The encyclopedias of similar nature that I was able to find were all at least five years old and not as up to date. Sexually Transmitted Disease: An Encyclopedia of Diseases, Prevention, Treatment and Issues fills a need for a more current, up to date comprehensive encyclopedia on sexually transmitted diseases.

This encyclopedia would be a useful resource in public libraries with consumer health resources, in high school libraries and undergraduate academic libraries alongside other general reference sources or in undergraduate libraries with public health or consumer health programs. —Mina Chercourt, Head of Cataloging and Metadata, Grasselli Library & Breen Learning Center, John Carroll University, University Hts., Ohio