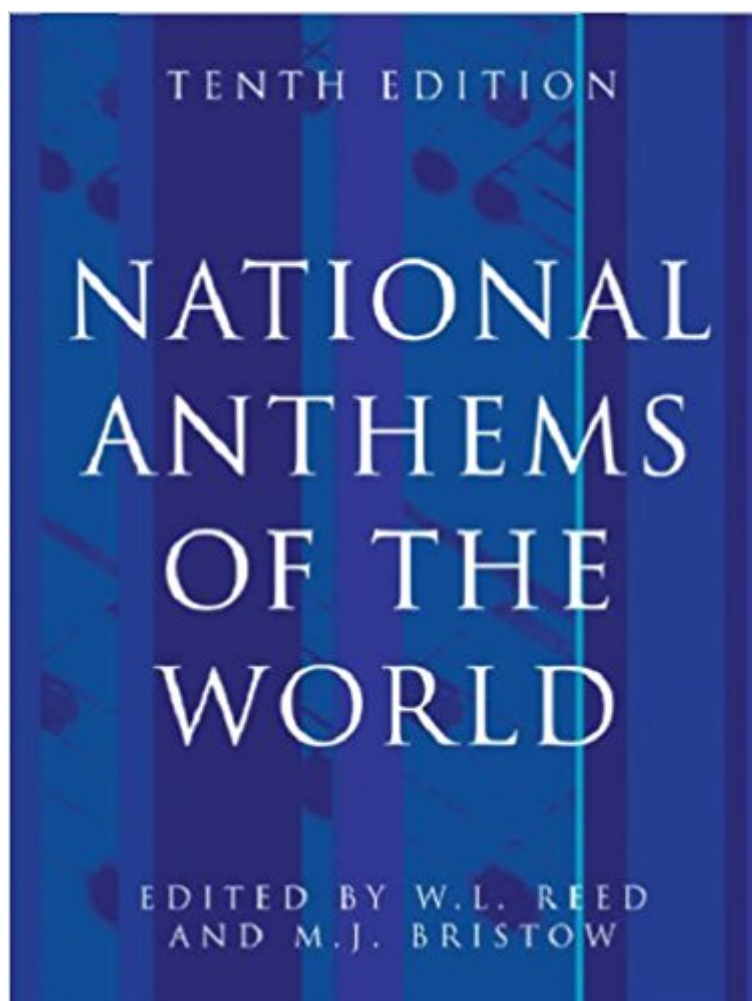


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National Anthems Of The World, Tenth Edition



Synopsis

"...an authoritative sourcebook...for countries ranging from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Scores include the original language and, where necessary, a transliterated phonetic version. English translations are placed within the music where possible."--Music Educators Journal. "The most current and complete reference available. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries."--Reference Books Bulletin. Whether you're looking for a particular national anthem for a special occasion (to honor a guest from Uzbekistan, for example), or just have an interest in music and culture, this is the definitive book on the subject. It includes anthems for 195 nations, with the words in the original language, arranged alphabetically, and translated too.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Bristow has been co-editor of National Anthems of the World since 1984 and this is the 6th edition that he has worked on. He is also editor of the State Songs of America. He now lives in Norway.

A good collection of music. It is fun to learn other country's national anthems, and I'm sure it will be a good teaching tool for our kids if/when we have them. Nice, sturdy hardcover, too.

I came across this tome in the library. It contains excellent piano solo arrangements, simple to

intermediate level. Whenever national anthems piano tutorials are requested, I will play from this book. bbdhrgglUpdate Aug. 18, 2013: This note is to the publisher. Would you consider releasing individual country anthems for sale? It would be more practical. Because most who come across my tutorials can not afford, or are not interested in purchasing, the entire book.

If today you are looking for the best book on national anthems, you should definitely choose Xing Hang's "Encyclopedia of National Anthems" (ISBN 0810848473). What you should certainly not do is buy this book. It is nothing but a waste of money. Here is why. Without doubt, the editors Reed and Bristow have taken efforts to gather the most current and complete information in the field and it is obvious that they spent many hours finding the latest information. On the other hand, the book was published in late 2002. Although this is its 10th edition and it always tries to be as current and complete as possible, the anthems of many countries have not been revised to reflect the changes that have taken place in the world. For instance, Afghanistan has undergone a tumultuous transition over the past two decades, yet the publication continues to mislead readers by using the obsolete Communist hymn of the 1980s. To play such music for Afghan guests would not honor them in the very least, but would rather reflect the host's ignorance of their country instead. Reed/Bristow have also failed to respond to the adoption of new anthems in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Qatar, and a host of other nations, many of which had changed songs over seven years ago. The two editors have the wrong music sheet for Micronesia (the island nation's anthem is "Patriots of Micronesia," signed into law in 1991). These make up just a few examples of the numerous content errors in this publication. Since the book boasts of being so current and complete, getting to know more about these new anthems was a major motivation for me to try this book. And I was deeply disappointed. Obviously, Reed/Bristow have not done a very good job keeping in touch with embassies and high commissions. On the contrary, Xing Hang at least is honest enough not to claim certain anthems to be still valid today-for example the anthems of "instable" countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq or Somalia-, and instead to leave these anthems out of the book altogether. If you appreciate correct spelling, solid paper, and an attractive layout, the Reed/Bristow book gives you still another load of reasons not to buy it. There are more than just a few errors in spelling and typesetting. Furthermore, the quality of the scores varies incredibly, ranging from excellent to below mediocre. Such highly uneven results will make amateur and professional pianists so frustrated as to break out in tears. As for these points, Xing Hang's book surpasses the latest edition of Reed/Bristow by far. Although Encyclopedia of National Anthems does contain some errors in music notation and typesetting, this premier edition has succeeded in bringing the esoteric field of national anthems to lay readers, like

students, professors, librarians, and the average guy on the street that enjoys these patriotic hymns, like me. However, Hang's book could still serve as a valuable reference for professionals as well. This is something that Reed/Bristow, in ten editions over 60 years, have failed to achieve. In contrast to the monotonous, bland music sheets that take up almost their entire book, which also contains a minimum of explanation, Hang includes detailed, valuable information on the history of how each song became the anthem of that country, as well as some essential facts about the country in question. In addition, he provides the anthem lyrics in a box of its own, separate from the music sheet, and compares them with an English translation so that readers could have an appreciation for what the text symbolizes. After all, these songs reflect the spirit of a nation and the values it stands for, above anything else. He also displays many lyrics in their original scripts (Arabic, Chinese, Cyrillic, etc) rather than simply a Latinized transliteration in Reed/Bristow's case, which, I believe, is very Eurocentric and does not give those nations the respect they deserve. In general, then, Encyclopedia of National Anthems is a truly interdisciplinary endeavor; it includes not only musicology, but also linguistics, history, politics, geography, and sociology. As globalization continues to bring our diverse world ever closer together, such integrated knowledge would help foster mutual understanding between the people of all countries, who can learn a lot about each other's cultures as represented through a national hymn. If Reed/Bristow do not improve their content to adjust to these rapidly changing times, their publication risks being discarded into the waste bin of history. Reading all these facts and recalling the hefty price I paid for their book, there is only one thing I would like to know: Dear publishers, how could you risk your reputation and waste a single sheet of paper for such a heap of trash? And dear readers: Do not even think of it...

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