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From Brand: Routledge : Africa (Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, Volume 1) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Africa (Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, Volume 1):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Really not an A-Z guide ...By K. Drygiannakisbut offers interesting views on matters not widely known! :-)) of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Sitar playerI want other volumes at this price.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. authoritativeBy A CustomerThis is an extremely desirable, comprehensive volume detailing the musical aspects of African culture. Erudite, clear entries on every related topic -- a prize for any musician's bookshelf.

Explores key themes in African music that have emerged in recent years-a subject usually neglected in country-by-country coverageemphasizes the contexts of musical performance-unlike studies that offer static interpretations

isolated from other performing traditions presents the fresh insights and analyses of musicologists and anthropologists of diverse national origins-African, Asian, European, and AmericanCharts the flow and influence of music. The Encyclopedia also charts the musical interchanges that followed the movement of people and ideas across the continent, including: cross-regional musical influences throughout Africa * Islam and its effect on African music * spread of guitar music * Kru mariners of Liberia * Latin American influences on African music * musical interchanges in local contexts * crossovers between popular and traditional practices. Audio CD included. Also includes nine maps and 96 music examples.

From Library JournalThis first in a planned ten-volume set is not an A-Z reference encyclopedia but 39 original essays by 34 scholars from four continents. They sample philosophies and methodologies of ethnomusicology as well as a large variety of African music and dance practices: ritual, religious, social, popular, art. Some are more gracefully accessible than others, but all are authoritatively based on field work. Essays displaying self-consciousness regarding what ethnomusicologists do, in the early part of the book, give way to articles reviewing broad themes (e.g., notation, music as healing, effects of travel and intercultural contact) and finally to reports of research in specific African cultures. The layout is handsome, and though there are no footnotes, lists of references cited at the end of each article are long. The index and glossary were not seen, and the accompanying music CD was not heard, but it evidently will contain hard-to-find examples. For academic and large public libraries serving serious students of African music and/or ethnomusicology. ?Bonnie Jo Dopp, Univ. of Maryland Lib., College ParkCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This unique and thoroughly researched resource provides a dynamic and in depth perspective on world music.... It strikes a balance between wonderful illustrations and comprehensive, scholarly entries. Each regional volume includes a CD sampler of that region's music. This source will have wide appeal to both the novice and expert."-"Dartmouth Medal Committee, 2003 "One of the most impressive coverages in print. Essential to any world music library."-"The Bookwatch "Fans will be able to refer to these informative books for the rest of their lives. It is unlikely that anything will appear in that time to surpass them."-"Cover "The most comprehensive and readable African music guide ever created."-"Pulse "Complete, concise, and informative. Enormously useful and instructive, a necessity for all libraries."-"MultiCultural