This book is the leading text for the nonmajors introduction to music courses. Some of the book’s distinctive features include the listening outlines (created by Kamien), the clear concise writing style, the well chosen examples, and the strong elements section. The fifth edition includes new selections throughout, additional listening outlines, new unit on The American Musical Theatre, and an improved and expanded recording package. Designed to help students follow a piece of music as it is playing, the listening outlines are now internally tracked and timed to correspond to the recording package. The writing style does not assume prior background in music. Also included are well chosen examples based on extensive market surveys and complete and separate units on nonwestern music and jazz. This edition has an increased number of listening outlines. The text now includes 48 listening outlines, and each piece outlined is available in the listening package. A new unit on the American Musical Theatre, including a section from Bernstein’s West Side Story and a completely revised music package, produced by Polygram, the classical music company is also included. Also an expanded package, including complete sets of LPs, cassettes and CDs and an expanded supplementary set of LPs, cassettes and CDs, writing about music supplement has been added.

The book is written on a scaled down level, but it does manage to give a brief history of music. My biggest complaint with the book is that the first chapters concentrate on the growth of music in Europe as if Europe were the only place in the world that anything was happening. The book would do better to at least try to incorporate the idea that all of life did not begin in Europe. What were Native Americans doing at the time? How about Africa, South America, or any of the Pacific Islands? China? I know that is a lot of information to cover, but a true history of music needs to incorporate more. If you buy this book, and keep the whole world in mind
while studying it, it can be a good part of an overall attempt to incorporate the history of music into your understanding of history as a whole.

I like the CD's!

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price: