

C. Meux – eBook Review

The Music Internet Untangled: Making the New Online Services Work for You by Andy Breeding

02-01-2005 -- Nonfiction

If you love music and want to enjoy it while at your computer, "The Music Internet Untangled: Making the New Online Services Work for You," is the eBook for you. Andy Breeding, a corporate librarian and music aficionado, has provided an education on this important and contemporary topic for those who want to explore all avenues of online music industry services. The organization of the eBook makes it a complete guidebook to what could be a complex topic. After presenting a sweeping overview of the music industry in general, Breeding moves into specifics of the online music services through three major sections.

Section One introduces the background of 15 online music services. The specific software requirements for each service as well as the pros, cons and areas the service is "best for" are detailed in each of the chapters. Section Two, provides information to for building an in-depth knowledge base of music and the music industry. The author believes that "knowing what you are listening to is central to music discovery" (p. 12). He encourages the avid music listener to read as well as listen.

The reader learns where to find and work with music charts, lyrics, biographies, and discographies on artists. This section is packed with directions to specific websites to answer practically any question you have on music and the people who work in the music industry. There's even a guide to music communities to participate in through email, forums, or chat rooms.

The seven-day plans presented in Section Three were particularly well-done. Breeding walks the reader through two Internet radio services, two personalized radio services, one online jukebox service and one downloading service. Each plan, which could alternatively be done in seven sessions instead of seven days, provides a step by step guide through every aspect of the selected service.

Each chapter sports boxed inserts that provide interesting and important tidbits about the music industry. Examples of these include why your favorite records may not be available on a legitimate online music service or what musician often used the wrong version of his own song lyrics for fun in some of his concerts.

Breeding says, "certain situations call for a good conversation" (p. 126). His eBook on the Internet music industry is certainly worthy of conversation among those who love music and are ready to learn about Internet music services.

Reviewed by Consuelo S. Meux